

Purple Reign





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Cover: Senior Aimee Ortega, 2005 Boys' Soccer Team, Junior Brian Pucher.
Left: Seniors Brianna Yarnell, Stephanie Pavlish, Nicole Vowell and Callie Lucas.



Purple Reign



As they smile and wave, Seniors Leigh Nelson, Denise Coleman and Danielle Roberts ride in the Homecoming Parade.

Merrillvue

Merrillville High School

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With music blaring from the instruments around her, Sophomore Jennifer Weger plays her clarinet while watching the football game. Singing in the limelight of the stage, Junior Jaclyn Boskamp and Senior Donald Toth both perform in the fall musical, "Children of Eden." In full sprint, Senior James Aldridge (23) reads the defense to find an opening to the end zone.



SUPERIOR SPIRIT

Inside these thick concrete walls and through these heavy classroom doors lies something that sets us apart. Of course, like any other school, we are all simply students soaking up all the details of World War II or straining ourselves to understand the steps to synthetic division. But here lies that something that makes us different, that something that defines us as a whole, that something that unifies us as a school. Each Friday, mobs of students, faculty and staff dressed in purple flood the hallways, Pirate faces line everything from tee-shirts to sweatshirts and spirit permeates the air. Each game day, jerseys fill seats in classrooms, purple hair ribbons glitter in the light and posters made with determination and pride decorate the walls. At MHS, we have something completely unique in the pride we have for our school, our classmates and ourselves. Through our pride, our confidence and our unity, we make purple reign.

The excitement at the homecoming parade helps Seniors Nicole Vowell, Jessica Francis and Holly Floyd get into character for the senior float. The float's theme was "Good guys vs. bad guys" and many seniors participated. Francis said, "I enjoyed being with my friends and getting a little crazy."

More than any other time, high school years offer unique experiences. Teens change every day, they enjoy different things, sometimes all at the same time.

In this school diversity reigns and new friends come together every day. Every person is different, each with a unique personality. These personalities will either clash or blend.

Friends remember the journeys of most embarrassing moments: being teased about driving mom's car, or managing to keep a healthy figure for the new clothing trends.

These pages take a dive back to the pertinent parts of high school, these lasting stories recorded for all to remember.



"I play sports so I've always worked out, but I really enjoy it, it relieves a lot of stress," says Senior Michael Trajkovski. Achieving and obtaining a good body was a big aspect of high school life during the year.

Adding a personal touch to a cell phone was a big hit this year amongst students. Applying jewels to a cell phone was a simple way for personal style to be reflected in different ways.



Illustration by Carlton Hoyes

Tribune Media Services



Armani Blakely

Have you ever been told you look like Usher?

"Yes, a lot of times."

Does it happen often?

"Ever since sixth grade to senior year."

Do you think you look like him?

"A little bit."

Does it bother you that people think you resemble him?

"Doesn't bother me at all."



Mr. Michael Knocke

Have you ever been told you look like Ron Stoppable?

"No, not really."

Does it happen often?

"It really doesn't really happen a lot, occasionally people will tell me."

Do you think you look like him?

"I sort of see a resemblance."

Does it bother you that people think you resemble him?

"No, I don't really care."



Mr. James Stamper

Have you ever been told you look like Jimmy Stewart?

"Yes, every time we watch one of his movies in class. They say I act like him too."

Does it happen often?

"When I'm wearing a suit, shopping for shoes, in an old folks' home. They call me a young whippersnapper."

Do you think you look like him?

"I could only hope, he is very handsome."

Does it bother you that people think you resemble him?

"No, he's a great American actor. He taught me how to live."

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Doubletake

DONPJEFT9KG



Photo illustration by Joanna Silivas

Tracy Lucas

Do you think you look like Jennifer Cieslak?

"We have similarities."

Have you ever been told you look like Jen? If so, by who?

"By so many people I can't even count."

How many times are you mistaken for her?

"A lot!"

Are you bothered by having people mistake you for her?

"It gets annoying sometimes."

Despina Lozevski

Do you think you look like Stephanie Pavlish?

"Some what. We have some of the same qualities."

Have you ever been told you look like Stephanie Pavlish?

If so, by who?

"All the time, by everybody: classmates, students and Mr. Klimczak."

How many times are you mistaken for her?

"A few times, not a lot."

Are you bothered by having people mistake you for her?

"It does not bother me, there is no point being insulted."



Kiara Hagan

Do you think you look like Brianna Carter?

"Yes, because everybody has been saying that since the seventh grade."

Have you ever been told you look like Brianna Carter? If so, by who?

"Yes, by students."

How many times are you mistaken for her?

"A whole bunch of times."

Are you bothered by having people mistake you for her?

"No, because she is a very pretty girl."



Did that just happen?



"When I was in the seventh grade at Pierce Middle School, I was sitting with my friends on the gym bleachers waiting for my bus to get called. I heard my bus number get announced and I got up suddenly and ran down the bleachers. I was running so fast that I ended up tripping, falling and rolling down the bleachers. I did this in front of everyone in the gym."

— Freshman Alexander Salinas

"I used to play soccer, and one day during my freshman year, we were practicing penalty kicks and my turn came up to kick the ball. When I went to run and kick the ball, my foot missed the ball, and I slipped and fell flat on my back in front of the whole soccer team." — Junior Caitlin DeCourcy

"Sophomore year me and my friends made shirts for the big Crown Point football game, and we cut ties in the side. That morning I was late to school and had to run to my locker. Without even thinking I slammed my locker shut, turned to run to class. The next thing I hear is 'rip!' My ties got caught in my locker and the whole side of my shirt ripped. The kids next to my locker were cracking up and I had to run to chemistry class holding my shirt together." — Senior Dana Sylva

"Last Winter Guard season we were at a contest in Lake Central. My instructor told us to help out with the other guard's props so we went to help out with the tarp. Then we watched the show and everything went fine. At the end of the show we only had a few minutes to get everything off and a few of us started to pull the tarp in. Not thinking, I tried to jump over the tarp to get over to the other side while the other girls are folding the rest out of the way. I ended up tripping and falling hard onto the gym floor in front of a huge crowd. Plus, my parents had a video camera with them and got everything on tape." — Junior Megan Fisch

"I was at my boyfriend's house, looking out of his glass door and suddenly I saw a deer, so I shouted, 'Hey there's a deer in your backyard!' My boyfriend comes running down the stairs along with his dad. We all looked outside, and I realized that the 'deer' was really a bush with a rabbit sitting behind it. I thought the bush was the body and the rabbit was the head." — Senior Magen Fassoth



For someone who does not like the sight of chewed up gum or rubbing carpet, Senior Jessica Francis cannot look at what Junior Kacey Loudermilk is doing. "The sight of gum makes my stomach queasy," said Francis. Her disgust for gum started when her friends put gum in her spaghetti without telling her, and she ended up eating it. Rubbing carpet sends chills throughout Francis' body. "It is nails on a chalkboard to me," she said. Her worst experience with carpet happened at Petsmart where she works. Francis said one of her managers locked her in a display with cat posts made entirely out of carpet.



As a genuphobic (a person who fears knees), Sophomore Kathrine Harold becomes frightened by Sophomore Debra Hartstead's knee. Ever since Harold saw a girl's knee become dislocated in sixth grade, she has never looked at knees the same way. "It was up in her thigh, and it was just disgusting," Harold said that even when she is shaving her legs, she has to look away from her knees.

At the sight of stickers, Junior Dwayne Johnson makes a face to reflect his feelings about stickers. For as long as Johnson can remember, stickers have always bothered him. Whether he sees stickers or someone is peeling stickers off of him, stickers disgust Johnson. "If someone is peeling a brand name sticker off a bottle, I run away. I really don't like stickers." His worst encounter with stickers had been when one of his friends placed stickers all over his face when he was asleep, and he had to peel them off.

Glancing at the mustard on the plate, Senior Jacqueline Smith attempts to ignore the smell and sight of the mustard. For as long as she can remember, she has always hated mustard. "It just looks and smells weird," Smith said. As an employee of McDonald's, she deals with mustard every time she is at work. Fellow co-worker Senior Dana Sylva, said, "She won't even bag food if it has mustard in it. If someone is eating something with mustard on it, she will sit at the end of the table."



Surrounded by enclosed space, Senior Courtney Miller shows a nervous expression. Miller has a fear known as claustrophobia. "I just feel like I'm suffocating, or I'm going to get crushed. It became worse the summer before sixth grade. I went on a water slide for the first time, one of the enclosed ones, and I just remember having a panic attack in the slide. I guess I was worried I would get stuck. I thought they would just keep sending people down and I thought I would be totally trapped," Miller said. When Miller had an MRI a couple of years ago, she had to make a special arrangement for an open MRI.

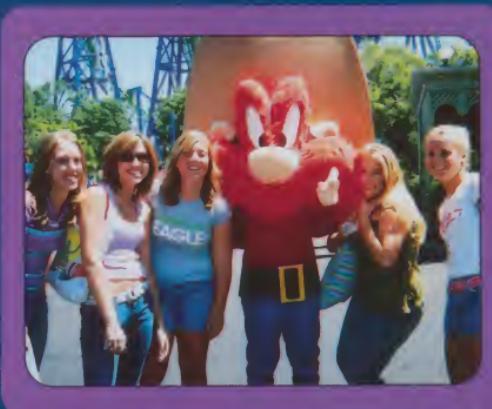


Are you afraid of the dark?

Hobbies & Hangouts

Before school, after school, on weekends. Where do students go to take time out of school and spend time with friends? Where are these local hangouts where so many students are regulars? What foods tickle students' taste buds? Is there any local entertainment that soothes a student's ear? What sights, sounds or even smells allow students to relax and forget about school for a little while? What activities allow students to be alone in a moment without the stresses of school overwhelming their minds? What activities allow students to get together for a night of fun?

Ready for takeoff, Junior Gerald Taylor sits in the cockpit of a Piper Warrior. Gerald has been flying small airplanes for a little over a year. "I like flying. It is such a cool feeling when I am able to get away from everything and just have fun. Plus the girls seem to like it when I tell them what I do in my spare time," said Taylor.



Posing with Yosemite Sam, Seniors Lindsey Trock, former Merrillville student Lauren Rees, Nicole Vowell, Megan Lee and Heather Zurek spend a day at Six Flags. "It was a fun day to celebrate the end of the school year," said Trock.



As they pose behind a cow with White Sox spirit, Seniors Abigail Deidigha, Nicole Langford and Azieb Parker enjoy Chicago after a White Sox game. "We were just hanging out going around; just walking around Chicago," Deidigha said. Deidigha also said that she and her friends take the time to tour Chicago together once every couple of months.

As they try on hunting boots at Meijer, Seniors Ashley Thomas, Lauren Huish and Alysse Fultz laugh while hanging on to one another for support. For many kids, Meijer is a great place to walk around and "goof off" for a night. "Whenever we have nothing to do, we can always count on Meijer to entertain us with their sweet hunting boots," said Huish.



In high heels and a red ensemble, Sophomore Chae Torres poses with her ballroom dancing instructor Quentin MacAdam. Torres has been dancing for five years. "I want to become a professional because I love to dance," said Torres. Torres goes to Chicago once a week to prepare for her four shows a year.



Sophomore Joshua Crayne and his partner, Haylie Brewster, set their bodies into the fish pose. "I like what I do; ballet helps me in cheerleading and is really fun. Kristy Polster got me hooked last year when she asked me for help in a show," said Crayne.



Decked

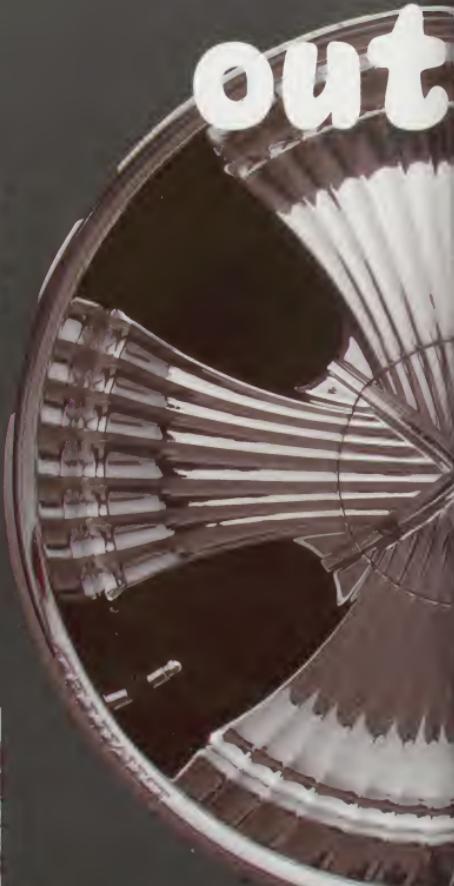


As he recalls the day he received his car almost three years ago, Senior Beaudilio McClendon tells about his 2004 Mitsubishi Endeavor XLS. McClendon said, "Even though my car is a family car, my ride is different because it has a young look. My car has an in-dash touch screen, custom exhaust, five percent tint, a neon underbody kit, and all of this is sitting on 20 inch 'dubs.'"

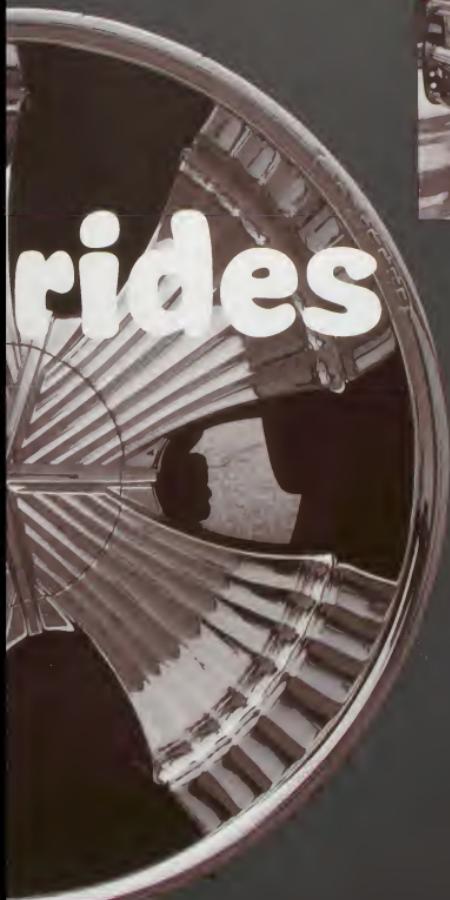


D-MAC

out



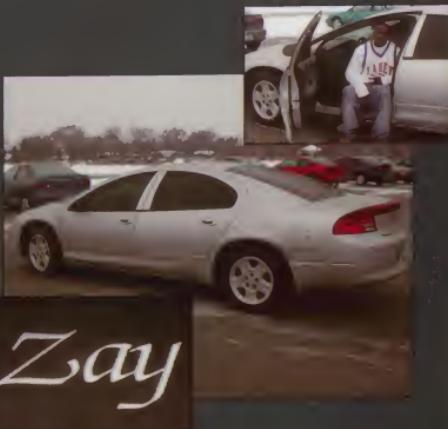
To top off his decked out ride, Senior Deji Macarthy has his rims to show. "Most people don't have 22s," said Macarthy. Even though Macarthy has 20 percent tint windows, TVs, a DVD player and a deluxe speaker system, his rims are what he said "I am most proud of." Macarthy also said, "I love my rims because they are 22 inches strong!"



rides



While he disregards all other accessories that he added on his ride, Senior Rayshon Richardson aims toward making his speakers louder than anyone else's speakers. In his '97 Chevy Tahoe 15000, Richardson said, "I have the dual exhaust system, the chromed out grill in the front, halogen lights and 20 inch spinners and 'the bang.' People don't say much when they see my car, but when they hear it, they say, 'It's too loud!'"



After having his decked out ride for two and a half years, Junior Xavier Wilson tells why he thinks his ride is so special. Wilson said that he only washed his car once or twice a month most of the year, but when it came down to decking out the interior of his 2002 Dodge Intrepid, Wilson said, "My car is special because like no one else that I've seen, I have authentic stitched head rests in my car. Everyone else's 'so called' stitching that I have seen were fake. I also got 20 inch rims and a speaker system in the back."

Zay

Hot Hot Hot... Hot Hot Hot...



Walking through the halls, a student at Merrillville High School can clearly see girls wearing gauchos, the new craze. "They are like trendy sweatpants," said Alison Conquest.



Sparkled shoes, also known as "flats," are at an all time high right now. They came in all sorts of colors and styles. "I have five pairs! They match with everything," said Senior Kamai Westbrooks.



The hobo sequined purse is a new hit with the girls. The purses were sold in almost every girl trend store. "With so many different styles, picking is just too hard," said Senior Cambria Hollingsworth.

MySpace takes over



What is so different about cell phones this year? Girls put gems on the cell phones for a hint of individuality and pizzazz.



A new trend on the rise is having an online diary. MySpace, one of many, is where people post their favorite pictures, music and personal comments. Then others visit the page and post comments as well.



The new trend for music is the iPod. Many different iPods have come out in all shapes, sizes and colors.





"The bigger, the better," said Senior Brandon Jordan, who remarked about the new fashion statement of huge earrings for guys. "I have two pairs, squares and circles."

Girls are not the only ones with fashionable shoes. The huge hit for guys this past year was Nike Shox. They came out in several colors and styles.

LIVESTRONG wristbands were a huge hit this year. After these were introduced by Lance Armstrong in 2004, many other charities adopted the style, but changed the color. Students wore several at a time to accessorize their clothing.



The PSP is the new electronic sensation that not only plays video games, but also movies and music, and it has Internet access. Senior Paulo Lara said, "Who needs friends when you have a PSP?"



Supporting the White Sox, Senior Phillip Keene shows off his White Sox jersey. The Chicago team won the 2005 World Series, and their logos were everywhere.



"Laguna Beach," "The Real World" and "The O.C." What do they all have in common? They are all television shows that were huge hits with teens this past year.

Favorite shows of 150 students





Smiling to a close friend, Senior Tara Florida dips her fork into her bowl of low-fat cottage cheese. Florida said she relied on a diet consisting of high dairy intake to keep her in shape. Florida said, "I choose food awareness over exercise. I have not worked out in the past two years."



In an effort to maintain a healthy lifestyle, many students chose healthy snacks, like a Kashi bar, over fatty foods. A Kashi bar contains a high amount of dietary fiber and protein to promote a healthy heart.

Teens try different approaches to maintain body image

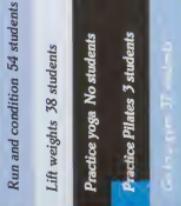
Teen Dieting Poll

Have you ever...?



Health & Fitness Poll

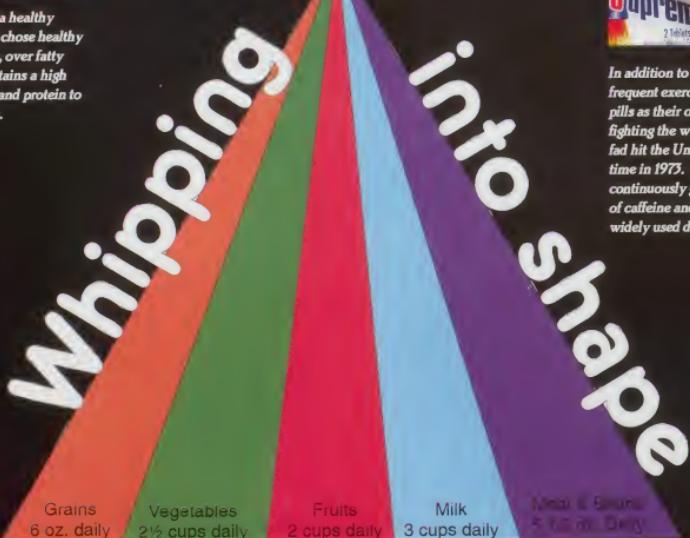
What do you do to stay fit?



While spending time with friends at lunch, Alyssa Fultz, a senior, remains weight conscious by enjoying a mixed salad along with a diet ice tea. Recently, many students have made the change from fatty foods to healthy substitutes. Fultz chose a salad over pizza because she "hates greasy food," and it makes her feel gross.



In addition to healthy eating and frequent exercise, many people use diet pills as their own personal way of fighting the weight gain. The diet pill fad hit the United States for the second time in 1973. The use of diet pills has continuously grown since the addition of caffeine and other stimulants to the widely used drugs.



Health & fitness

become a priority

Weight. Many students are trying to achieve or maintain the perfect weight because of sports or just because they want to stay healthy and feel good about themselves.

Despite all of the fad diets and workout plans out there, staying fit and healthy primarily involves eating correctly and staying active.

Anyone can eat healthy. Eating healthy does not mean someone has to be part of a diet plan.

"I don't think diets are a good idea. Too many girls say they are on diets, and rather than watching what they eat, they end up not eating at all," Junior Jennifer Dietrich said.

When eating healthy, students do not necessarily have to eat less; they just have to watch what they eat. The food pyramid is a diagram that shows the basic foods that students can put into their bodies.

In addition to guidelines given by the food pyramid, students can limit the intake of food that can be harmful to their body.

"I don't drink pop because I know how bad it is for you," Dietrich said.

Merrillville High School tries to promote healthy eating by not serving pop, having a salad bar line and baking their French Fries.

Along with eating healthy, students can also exercise, whether is for sports or for staying fit.

Junior Richard Reddick is frequently seen in the weight room because it helps him stay in shape during the off-season.

"I probably wouldn't work out as much if I wasn't in sports, but I would still exercise. I really enjoy working out. It just makes me feel better," Reddick said.

Ms. Doris Brown, who has checked students into the weight room for the last twelve years, has noticed that "most of the kids that go in and out of the workout room are in sports." She believes that working out not only helps students physically but can also help to build a student's self-confidence.

"I just wish that more students who aren't in sports would take advantage of the facilities here at Merrillville," Ms. Brown said.

Students do not have to participate in a sport in order to stay in shape.

"I'm not in sports, but that doesn't mean I don't worry about my appearance. I run at home so I can stay in shape," Dietrich said.

MHS not only provides a workout room available to every student, but it also offers classes such as advanced fitness. This class gives those students who cannot workout after school, the opportunity to work out during the day.

Whether students workout or eat healthy, Ms. Brown believes that "students should work towards feeling satisfied with their appearance and gain self-confidence."

"I take pride in my body," Reddick said.

Weightlifting

In the school's weight room, Senior Michael Trajkovski grunts in exhaustion to put up 95 pounds in a power clean. Trajkovski said, "I keep in shape by regular workouts three times a week." Weightlifting took the school by storm, and students everywhere relied on this to keep physically active.



Leg press

Because the leg press strengthens all parts of the lower body, it is one of the most commonly used. Many athletes consisting of runners, football players and softball girls used this machine during their regular workouts. Senior softball player Ashley Traina said, "I always use the leg press because it really helps keep my lower body in shape for the games."



Squats

In an effort to keep in shape and build muscle, Harold Sallee, a junior, squats a total of 115 pounds. In addition to alternate workout days, Sallee participated in the Advanced PE class. "Harold is one of the strongest and most dedicated students in class," Coach Lori Dust said.



Dumbbells

Dumbbells are commonly used to work the upper body by most athletes. The arms, the back and the abdominal muscles all benefit from dumbbell use. "I use the dumbbells a few times a week to strengthen my abs. It's the only type of exercise that works for me," said Junior Jennifer Dietrich.



Arms

While working on his arms, Junior Christopher Burke struggles to push down 80 pounds. Burke worked out in the weight room at least four times a week in an attempt to prepare for his upcoming seasons in tennis and swimming. Burke said, "I don't work out only to keep in physical shape, but it also makes me feel very relaxed when I am finished."





While snowboarding down the hill, Senior Micheal Padgett tries to "manual" (riding on the back of the board). Padgett has been snowboarding for the last 11 years, but started off skiing. He switched to snowboarding because he liked the difficulty. "I like the snow and I like the feeling you get when you board through fresh powder," said Padgett.

Skating at the local skate park, Senior Dwight Harding grinds down a rail. "I like the fact that I can inline anywhere. I can pull out my blades and skate whenever I want," said Harding. He continues the sport because of the freedom he has.



Displaying his skateboarding skills, junior Jeffrey Nemcek does a 360-heellip. Nemcek said that he has been skateboarding for many years and has been injured many times. "I have broken my fingers and my wrists a few times, but I still skate because it is so fun," said Nemcek.

AdRENALink

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Word	Translation
Snowboarding/Skiing	
Sketchy	Not very good
Snowbunny	Cute girl
Amped	Excited
Gaper	Skier who stops to see the scenery
Mashed Potatoes	Wet, heavy snow
Powder	Light, fluffy snow
Milkrun	First run of the day
Surfing	
Swell	Big wave
Ragdoll	Tossed by a wave
Rip	Surfing to the best of one's ability
Skateboarding	
Ripper	Really good skater
Slam	Bad fall
Bail	Intentional fall to avoid slam
Fat	Big trick
Motocross/BMX	
Lapper	Slow rider that is being lapped by the others
Endo	Headfirst over the handle bars

skate board



Outside his house, Senior Gilberto Fuentes does a kick flip on his skateboard. Fuentes said that he started skating because his friends persuaded him to try the sport. "I used to just skate to pass the time, but now I'm a lot better and I have a lot of fun doing it," said Fuentes.

"I overcame my fear of public speaking," stated Senior Cheng-Wei Chiang. Highlighting material at an Academic Decathlon practice, Chiang reviews for his next competition. Chiang has been a member of the team since his sophomore year and said he participates because it helps him with his studies. Members agree that learning new material attracts students to participate in Academic Decathlon.

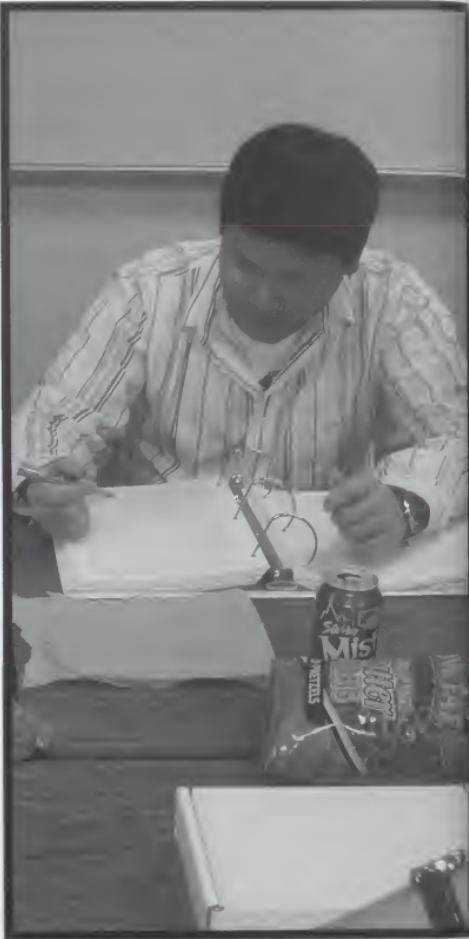
Driving down high school road, valuable lessons are learned through the passage.

Academic classes take up the majority of a student's life, and the habits students use to succeed are unique to each student.

Required classes create a common thread among students, and the elective classes give students an opportunity to learn material for a future career.

Various learning techniques help students excel in their areas of study. Students participate in different academic clubs to further their education in a field of interest. A wide variety of programs are offered to those who are interested in a material.

The diversity of students offers a unique learning experience to teachers and students alike.



Bowling with Key Club member Senior Lawren Perry, AKtion member Jordan Davison participates in the Harvest Party sponsored by the Key Club and STAND. The AKtion program is one of the clubs offered to the special education students. Occasionally, other clubs join in events with the AKtion club to promote unity throughout the school.

"Decorating cakes during class is probably the best part," said Junior Sara Furman. Mrs. Carol Von Behren's cake decorating class makes different baked goods. Not only did the students try new recipes, but they also were able to eat their creations. Most of the students agreed eating their creations is one of the best aspects of this elective class.





The members of the Academic Decathlon Team are (front row) Senior Cheng-Wei Chiang, Senior Mary Hawkins, Senior Nyssa Brown; (second row) Junior John Goosby, Senior Charles Cole, Senior Joshua Metz; (back row) Senior William Crosby, Senior Richard Hartline, Senior Robert Martin



Discussing topics studied, members of Academic Decathlon enjoy snacks to keep motivated. "The snacks are not the only reason why I joined Academic Decathlon. My sister was in it, and I had Mr. Staley and Mr. Lamberis who asked me to be involved," said Senior Cheng-Wei Chiang.



Promptly, Senior Athena Frost answers a question during a practice session. The Academic Decathlon Team practiced two times a week and competed three times. "I enjoy being in Academic Decathlon because I am around smart people who I can learn from," said Senior William Crosby.

Brains in competition

Placing second at state was the 'greatest feeling. (It is) the best we've done in eight years doing this.'

Mr. Scott Staley



Taking a little time off, Coaches Mr. Robert Bedwell and Mr. Ian Rausei enjoy their lunches. Mr. Bedwell was the social studies coach and Mr. Rausei was science coach. "Our coaches helped us a lot. They gave us the information on books and websites that our categories involved," said captain of the interdisciplinary team, Senior Charles Cole.

Not only do sports have regional and state competitions, but so do the Academic Decathlon, Academic Super Bowl, Quiz Bowl and Spell Bowl teams.

Academic Decathlon, coached by Mr. John Lambersie and Mr. Scott Staley, consists of tests in ten disciplines that the team studies before regional competition: math, English, art, music, economics, science, social studies, essay, speech and interview. Nine students participate in three divisions based on grade point average: honors, scholastic and varsity.

At the state competition, Senior Charles Cole won eight gold medals, placing first overall in the honors division, and Senior Athena Frost received six silver medals, placing second overall in the scholastic competition.

Placing second at state was the "greatest feeling. (It is) the best we've done in eight years doing this," said Mr. Staley.

"Everybody on the team is helpful, including the coaches," Senior William Crosby said. "They take time out to help."

Academic Super Bowl, coached by Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, tests students in English, math, social studies, fine arts, science and an interdisciplinary field. The team receives 25 questions, and the students are able to talk with each other to come to an answer.

"We had two firsts, two seconds, and two thirds at area (competition)," Mrs. Steiner said. "We tied for third in state with Portage and Harrison in Lafayette."

Although Academic Decathlon and Super Bowl allow studying beforehand, members of Quiz Bowl go with the flow.

Quiz Bowl competitions are "Jeopardy style with random, intellectual questions," said Mr. Lambersie, one of Quiz Bowl's coaches.

Senior Cheng-Wei Chiang said he joined because "it seemed fun, and I like Jeopardy."

With a 5-4 record, Mr. Staley, Quiz Bowl coach, said, "To finish above 500 is a good thing. To have that record and finish strong in the tournament is always a good sign."

Chiang said the hardest part of the club is "taking the losses. It's only good when you know you've lost to a better team."

Chiang said he has enjoyed "meeting new people, getting quizzed on random knowledge and winning."

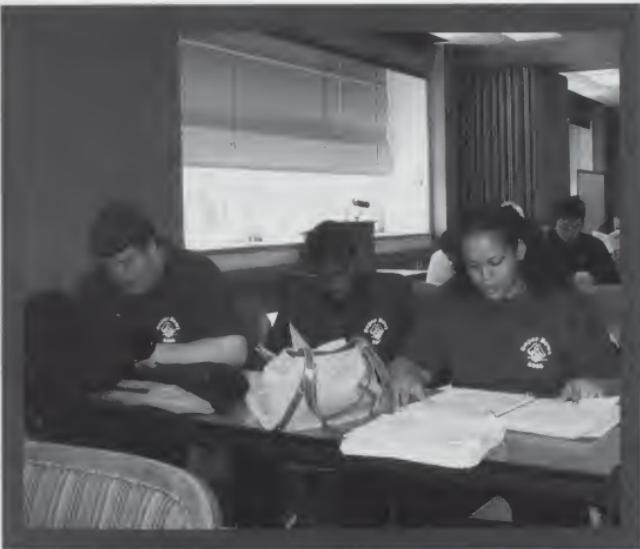
Spell Bowl members, coached by Mrs. Steiner, receive a list of approximately 3500 words to study for an area competition. How the team does in area determines whether they advance to state competition.

"We didn't make state, but we weren't that far away. We placed third. The team worked hard this year," said Mrs. Steiner.

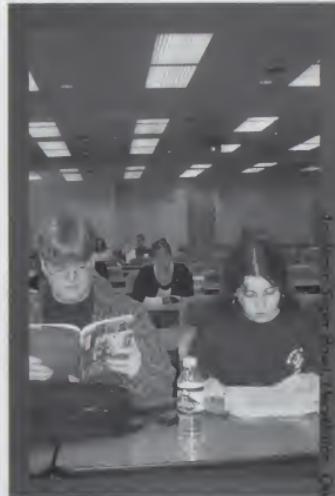
A couple of examples of the words studied in Spell Bowl are "consanguineous" and "lagunippe."

Senior Angelica Nunn, a participant of Spell Bowl, said she joined the team because she "wanted to do something academic."

Nunn said, "Mrs. Steiner is a great person to do that (Spell Bowl) because she has a lot of patience."



Preparing for the competition, Junior Benjamin Pankiewicz and Seniors Charles Cole and Athena Frost study their materials. "Competitions are nerve-racking because you are under so much pressure," said Frost.



Looking over notes, Senior Elliott Johnson and Junior Hope Asya-Broughton gain as much information as possible before the test. "The most fun part of being in Super Bowl is the fact that I get to learn and get such a rush from doing competitions," said Johnson.

Sweating it out

Despite the misconceptions, the Physical Education Department, better known as PE, not only provided activity and swimming classes, it also gave students the opportunity to explore in areas beyond.

As freshmen, students were required to take Swimming and Activities to better their knowledge of an active lifestyle. While most students stopped here, they had the chance to excel in other areas offered by the department.

"Having classes outside of the mandatory ones gives the students a chance to be active and become more physically fit," said trainer and PE teacher Mr. Sean Hudson.

The PE Department offered classes such as Bodyworks, Advanced Fitness, and Life Guarding outside of the required classes. Because these were only offered for a semester, students had the ability to take more than one during the school year.

In Bodyworks and Advanced Fitness classes, students stayed in shape by lifting weights and working out throughout the class period.

"Taking Advanced Fitness helped me stay in shape as well as get stronger," said Senior Mike Trajkovski.

The only prerequisite for these classes was a passing grade in one semester of activities and one semester of swimming. Those students taking the life guarding class learned CPR as well as other life saving techniques to apply to the real world. Passing a standard swim test at the beginning of the semester was the only requirement for this class. Once the students passed lifeguarding, they received their CPR card as proof of their knowledge.

The PE Department has had an, "overall success with a decent amount of kids enrolling in the elective classes," said Hudson.

Because of this good turn out, Athletic Training, which has once been offered in previous years to the students, has been discussed to return under the PE department.



Completing her ten reps on the incline press machine, Freshman Danielle Bly is impressed by her performance in her P.E. class. "I feel like I put a lot of effort into the class and I try hard," said Bly. Bly hopes that the class will get her in better shape. She said that she would take the class even if it was not recommended for graduation. Her goal is to get an A out of the class.



Preparing himself for what he thinks is one of the easiest machines in the weight room, Sophomore Carlo Martinez hopes to build muscle and improve his performance in wrestling. "Advanced Fitness is one of my favorite classes. I can already tell that this is the class that I will be looking forward to every day," said Martinez.



Completing a round of push-ups, Junior Ryan Wengel looks up to see if his teacher, Ms. Lori Dust, has called time. "Students in the class usually concentrate on their workout, but in the locker room or on free time, they're pretty cool," said Wengel. The Advanced Fitness class is offered every year. Wengel recommended taking Advanced Fitness for a good workout.



Setting his weight for his turn at the bench press, senior Mike Trajkovski is in the Advance Fitness class at Merrillville. His teacher Ms. Lori Dust said that he takes more interest in the class. She said that he takes the class well and tries his hardest to do what his best. Even though Trajkovski enjoys the class, he knows that it is going to be a challenge.

From Personal Finance to HTML classes, the variety offered in the Business Department interests students and prepares them for the competitive world of business. The department offers programming classes such as Visual Basic, Internet, Web Page Design and Java Script. Business classes include Business Foundations, Marketing, Business Law, Accounting, International Business and Entrepreneurship.

Business Department Chairman Mr. David Zimmerman said all the computer classes offer a way to gain knowledge of work situations. In four classes, students can earn college credits. Students have to earn a B or a higher grade to qualify for dual credit with Ivy Tech.

"The things we learn in the Business Department are really going to help us later in life because computers are a major part of our lives. We use computers for everything right now," said Senior Jazmine Magee.

Zimmerman also said more students enroll in HTML than any other business class. "Most students prefer the HTML, which is a new program that involves designing of web pages because kids are very interested in designing their own web page," Mr. Zimmerman said.

The HTML web design class helps student create web pages by adding their own color, images and style. "I'm glad I took this class because later in life, if I go into business, I won't have to pay money to make a web page. I can make my own page and design it myself," Senior Mallory Cuevas said.

"I never thought that there could be so much code in making a website, but it was fun," Cuevas added.

The number of students in the department increases from year to year. Mr. Zimmerman said, "We plan to offer a vast array of interesting classes so students can be better aware of the working world."

Preparing students for the business world



Copying codes for her website, Sophomore Chelsea Fejes, really enjoys her HTML class. Fejes favorite part of class is choosing backgrounds and designing her page. "We make web pages and have fun while doing it," said Fejes. Fejes said that she is graded on creativity and how the web page comes together. She recommended that HTML be required for all students to take because the class is fun.



Sophomore Alyssa Cast tries to finish her Finance assignment on time. Cast enjoys the class and finds it interesting. "I knew the background of the class, and Ms. Duzan teaches it very well so that it's understandable," said Cast.



Getting help from his classmates, Senior Alfredo Arredondo hopes he can understand the information. His classmates Bo Patten and Cortez Arnold like the Marketing class and said that it is an easy course. Arnold said the class is a good environment and it's interesting. "To me this class could definitely help me out in the future with my bills and other things," said Arnold.



As Junior Brett Beatty turns around, he checks with Mr. Andrew Niksch to see if his assignment is done correctly. Beatty thinks that the class is fun, but challenging. "The only thing that I hope will happen in Advanced Visual Basics is for me to understand the programming skills better and get a good grade," said Beatty.

'You can't beat a rocket.'
Senior Jerry Ortiz



5-4-3-2-1 BLAST OFF!!!

In the lab, Senior Jerry Ortiz spray paints the nose of the rocket. Science Club members spent three months building the rocket this year. "We had a model from last year, so it did not take that long. We had to set the standard and come up with a design that was basically flawless," said Senior Lucas Phillips, who has been in Science Club since freshman year.



From physical science to earth science, some students are more and willing to spend extra time expanding their knowledge of the world of science. Two clubs that focus on science are the Science Club and Science Olympiad.

The Science Club, supervised by Science Department Chair Mr. Ascombe, is an interactive club that allows students to learn about science through hands-on experiments and projects. Members of the Science Club focus on their main hobby, which is designing and building a rocket.

Senior Jerry Ortiz, Phillips said that the goal for this year's rocket was to "set the standard for a good launch and come up with a flawless design."

After a successful launch in the spring, the students began working to design, build and perfect the engineering

details in order to earn a qualifying score. Members such as Phillips, Senior Edward Jones and Senior Gerardo Ortiz, Jr. competed in the launch contest this season.

Science teacher Ian Rausei coached the members of Science Olympiad in various areas of science in order to prepare them for competitions. These competitions include 25 events including written examinations, labs and building events in areas of science such as astronomy, ecology and physics.

This season two senior members, Athena Frost and Elliott Johnson, earned three third place medals for the team during a February competition.

Members of the team study together and familiarize themselves with various materials, but overall, Johnson said that they "all have a love for science."

Academics 28
As a small puddle of drool gathers under the chin of Junior Nome Damjanoski, sleeps next to his book. Sleeping in class is not uncommon for him, but he did have to put some effort toward maintaining his GPA. "I just review in class and the night before tests and still get good grades," said Damjanoski.



Staring intently at the small computer screen of his PSP, Senior Paulo Lara keeps one ear open as the teacher lectures. "I don't really study, except right before tests in class," said Lara. He said he is alert in class only when he is playing his PSP; otherwise he enjoys sleeping.



Taking notes as the teacher lectures in class, Sophomore Sonya Lazoski pays attention yet keeps herself busy during the down time of class. "I like to draw a lot in class. It keeps me busy," said Lazoski. She studied for a couple of hours, especially just before tests.



With a book open and her head resting on her fist, Junior Jacqueline Miller reads over the chapter and occasionally slips into a daydream. Being one of the class valedictorians, she did spend sometime studying for each class. "I like to daydream a lot in class if its not right before a test," said Miller.



Every class had them. The students who would sit up front and pay attention in class, follow every instruction, complete all of their homework and earn good grades. At the other extreme are some who seemed to do nothing in class, talk all hour and rarely finish their homework. Most students fall somewhere in between, doing the work and managing to get the grade. Regardless of where they fall in the spectrum of study habits, each student has his or her own method of learning and studying in and out of class.

For some students, study habits must fit in with a variety of other factors. As for Senior Daniel Enghofer, he said that he finds it difficult to be in honors classes, play sports and maintain his part time job.

Enghofer said, "I barely study outside of school. I only study when I have a huge test, and even then it's at the last possible moment. It's hard fitting everything in a day."

Some people, like Sophomore Kristen Joi Hoyles, choose to study for hours every night .

"I study three to five hours a night, even if I don't have homework or a test," said Hoyles.

Another factor that influences a student's study habits is parental influence. In Hoyles' case, she said that she studies for hours because her parents encourage doing well in school.

Junior Ashish Arshanapalli said, "My parents have enforced good grades all of my life. Doing well in school is very important to them."

Some students find that the pressure to succeed is not only demanded by parents, but also expected by teachers and sometimes friends.

"Friends are always comparing grades," Enghofer said. "It is a constant competition."

Hittin' the books

With a tennis racket and a golf club in hand, Junior Stoten Stofko balances his physics book on his head. "I come home and study, but sometimes it's hard, especially math," said Stofko. He explained that the hardest part occurs when seasons intersect, and he has practice after practice.



Hurrying to run from practice to practice, Sophomore Karen Balko tries to find time to study. "I play soccer and swim. The only time I have to do my homework is as soon as I get home from practice," said Balko. She agrees it is hard sometimes, yet she maintains a 3.5 GPA.



Trying to find a balance between after school activities and schoolwork, Senior Xiomara Vega splits her time. "I have a 3.7 GPA, and I enjoy balancing the two," said Vega. She has played softball for three years and has danced for two years.

School vs. sports

With school time already taking up most of a teenager's life, the homework, projects and tests only add more demands and stress to everyday life. To put sports on top of that seems like an almost impossible task. However, many students seem to balance everything with relative ease.

Freshman Ryan Stokes said, "You just have to focus, and manage everything wisely."

Junior Drew Dawson agreed. "Make sure one thing is done before going to the next. When you're in school, you can't be thinking about the game that night, and when you're playing a game you can't be thinking about class that day."

Both Stokes and Dawson played several sports throughout the year. When one sport would end, another would start. They both said that they loved it all, and they would not want it any other way. However, playing more than one sport and going to school is not as easy as it looks.

Senior Beaudilio McClendon said, "It does get pretty stressful sometimes. During baseball season, I would have four games a week, get home real late, then do homework and then only get like four hours of sleep."

Senior Tamara Gaddy gave a tip to other students who would like to excel in both sports and academics. "Put your heart and soul into everything, and just do it."



With his books and a football in hand, Freshman Keith Pavlish balances his school work and after school activities. "I think it's easy to balance between the two because the practices aren't that long," said Pavlish. He said he has never fallen behind in class and keeps his 3.2 GPA.





Working at the offset press, Senior Roger Pesnaux prints everything from detention forms to calendars. During the summer, Pesnaux enjoyed working with Mr. David Teeter in the Press Shop. "It helped me prepare for this year. I learned stuff from Mr. Teeter that I use this year," Pesnaux said.

Having a handful

Students get involved in class using more than their brains. Participating in hands-on classes gives them an opportunity to express themselves creatively.



In the Graphic Arts room, Junior Jennifer Dietrich works on a masking sheet. Dietrich's main responsibility was the dark room, to prepare for offset printing jobs. "I like the class a lot. It's easy, and you get time to do things," Dietrich said.



While Senior Matthew Braatz prints tee-shirts for a school event, Mr. David Teeter watches and makes sure that Braatz doesn't have any problems. Since Mr. Teeter took over Graphic Arts in 1986, he has added more machines to the Press Shop to be able to produce more. "Most of the stuff that is used on a daily basis on the school, like homework slips and papers with the school's logo, we make," Mr. Teeter said.



Doing his job, Junior Edwin Tirado Jr. takes care of the embroidery in the Press Shop. Tirado took orders from the school, and then he made most of the designs. "It's a good class," Tirado said. "I picked it because I wanted to try something new."

Students are well aware of the basic courses that teach all the familiar subjects: Math, English, Science and History. However, some do not realize the many courses that give hands-on experience.

Press Shop, for example, does all the printing for the school using a printing press, which can be faster and more effective than a commercial printer. Everything from the Pirate calendar and parent newsletter to detention and tardy slips are printed in this class. Also, many of the signs and banners around the hallways are done in Mr. David Teeter's Press Shop.

In addition to the everyday paper products printed in the class, students get the opportunity to create things such as invitations, business cards and envelopes.

"I enjoy printing the shirts the most, but I never knew how much work actually goes into it before," said Senior Matt Braatz.

Tee-shirt printing is another project the class works on, and many of the shirts made go to different Pirate sports and academic teams and organizations.

Students can also find other hands on courses offered by Family and Consumer Sciences. Students in FACS classes have the opportunity to learn how to prepare various types of foods, from the most traditional to the more exotic, cultural cuisine.

Course work also emphasizes how to set a table properly and serve the prepared food in an appealing way.

FACS courses include Cake Decorating, Foods I, Foods II and Child Development. These classes are considered to be enjoyable by both the kids and the staff.

Mrs. Carol Von Behren said that she enjoys both teaching and working with the students.



After several hours of work, Senior LaDarra Selmon is ready to have her cake graded by Miss Carol Von Behren. All the students completed a tiered wedding cake, using what they learned during the semester. "They have to show the skills they've learned," Miss Von Behren said. "They get the grading sheet ahead of time, because I don't think it should be a surprise how they are graded."



In the Child Development class, Senior Sidney Miller plays with 3-year olds Isabella Azcona and Alenah Guerrero. Miller has taken the class two years. "I've learned how to take care of kids. It's not as easy as it looks like, but I like it," said Miller.



In foods class Sophomore Roosevelt Williams finishes manicotti. They made different foods, but making cookies became Williams' favorite. "We learned to make different types of cookies. After I learned how to make them, I make more cookies at home," said Williams.



Making her final project, Senior Jacqueline Bella makes flowers for her wedding cake. Bella said she was very satisfied with her finished product. "I showed people pictures of my wedding cake, and now they want me to do theirs," said Bella.



Whether they spent the summer abroad or stayed an entire year in a foreign country, some students chose to experience a foreign culture this year.

Melissa Crossley, a senior, became one of those students when she joined the Indiana University Summer Abroad Program.

"I really fell in love with the country," said Crossley on the two months she spent in Spain.

Crossley prepared for the trip by utilizing every study period practicing her Spanish.

She said, "It was hard to communicate when I first got there, but I got used to the speed of their speech."

Crossley said her future ambitions include living a few years in Spain.

In contrast, Senior Trine Eskesen and Senior Christian Mathys spent a year away from home while attending Merrillville High School. Mathys commented on his first impression of the United States when he said, "Everything is a lot bigger and cheaper here."

Mathys, whose native country is Switzerland, said he was very nervous before he got here but thought that everyone was very friendly.

Eskesen, who is from Denmark, said the biggest difference between her home and Merrillville is that "school is so much more strict here."

Eskesen said she made a lot of new friends who she hopes she can stay in touch with in the future, and she would like to come back and visit the United States again.

Between the Indiana University Program and the Foreign Exchange Program, students continued to expand their horizons this year.

With a cake that reads "Happy Birthday" in Danish, Senior Trine Eskesen celebrates her 16th birthday with her new friends. Making new friends in a foreign country had ranked as one of Eskesen's biggest fears. "I had hoped to make this many friends," she said. "It makes it so much easier."



Following a point, Senior Christian Mathys stares down his opponent across the court. Mathys worked his way up the Boys' Tennis Team to play at the No. 2 singles position. "That was the first thing I did here. They were the first friends I made," Mathys said. "I really enjoyed it."



While the sun shines brightly, Senior Melissa Crossley sits in front of the coast in Peniscola, Spain. Peniscola, home to some of Crossley's favorite sites, became one of her favorite places. She said, "In Peniscola, I liked the castle in town, the coast and the beaches."



As she sits high above the ground in the Tower de los Seranos, Senior Melissa Crossley poses in front of a view of Valencia, Spain. Crossley's summer trip helped her to realize she might want to return to Spain. She said, "I don't know exactly when, but I would want to go back and live there. I'd like to teach Spanish and history or a mix of them both."

Crossing borders

"It's a once in a lifetime experience to see how different the United States is from the rest of the world."

— Senior Melissa Crossley



Taking a break on her skis, Senior Trine Eskesen poses for a picture on a snowy slope. Eskesen found skiing to be a familiar experience. Eskesen said, "I have skied for like 12 or 13 years. My family goes away to Austria to ski every year."



Standing with friends from the IU Honors Program, Senior Melissa Crossley poses in an entrance to a castle in Segunto, Spain. Crossley stayed with a Spanish woman as her host "mother" and a girl on a trip from Germany. Crossley said, "It's a once in a lifetime experience to see how different the United States is from the rest of the world."



Finished eating, new friends, Seniors Drake Branda and Christian Mathys, goof around during lunch. The tolerance for goofing around and breaking rules became one of the major differences Mathys noticed between the United States and Switzerland. He said, "It's a lot stricter here, and there are so many rules here."



Lying in coffins, Seniors Trine Eskesen, Megan Lee and Katherine Kaplar visit Six Flags during the Halloween season. Six Flags became just one of Eskesen's new experiences. Eskesen said, "I've really only been here for a few months, but it feels like a year because I've had so many new experiences."

As she shows the next step, Mrs. Barb Dlouhy helps President of Aktion Club, Senior Daniel Avery, make his rocket. Members in the Aktion Club have volunteered in activities such as the Campus Cleanup and the Christmas Wish List during the school year.



As a final touch for the rocket launch, Junior Russell Parkhurst cleans his rocket. Parkhurst said one of his favorite moments with the Aktion Club included seeing the movie "Eight Below" and going to dinner afterward with all of his friends. Parkhurst is the treasurer of Aktion Club.



Front Row: Russell Parkhurst, Meredith Harris, Terrance Johnson, Kiara Smith, Krystal Greane; Second Row: Eli Kookch, Kearo Adams, Dwayne Tucker, Aeriel Smith; Back Row: Mrs. Kay Ross, Justin Burgess, Daniel Avery, Darius White, Mrs. Barb Dlouhy

For a second year, Aktion Club members continued their goal of giving back to the community.

Aktion Club is a division of Kiwanis Club that cooperates with Key Club to complete community service projects. Comprised of 12 special needs young adults, Aktion Club meet once a month to plan these activities.

Mrs. Barb Dlouhy has returned as the sponsor of this club. Club members benefit by being allowed the opportunity "to interact with other people and show the community what they can do," she said.

This year, Aktion Club members helped out at the carnival for Riley Hospital for Children and collected pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald Charity Foundation. They also worked at a soup kitchen in Gary, filled the school's vending machines and helped assemble the school's newsletters and student newspaper.

Mrs. Dlouhy said she feels that Aktion Club is a great experience for its members.

"It's been very positive," said Mrs. Dlouhy. "It's been great to see the kids so happy."

Lights, Camera, Aktion!

With small adjustments to the camera, Senior Krystall Marshall makes sure everything is where it should be. Marshall has been part of PNN for two years, last year as a morning announcer and this year as an anchor on the Friday Show. Marshall said that being on PNN has taught her to speak clearly and with poise. She said she is planning to major in broadcast journalism.



With last minutes adjustments, Senior Porsche Bradley prepares before the opening of The Morning Show. Bradley was one of the main anchors on The Morning Show this year. She said she enjoyed taking PNN and added that PNN will help her begin her broadcasting career.



Quickly glancing down the list of songs, Senior Analy Carrera decides which song mix should be played during the opening of The Morning Show. Carrera says the class was fun because she was able to meet new people. One of the things she enjoyed most in PNN was editing segments on the computer.



As they prepare to go on the air, Seniors Kierra Givens and Melody Gomez discuss what news they will broadcast. Both girls agreed that being responsible and making deadlines was an important part of PNN. Gomez said, "It is very important to trust one another to be responsible."



You're on the air!

Continuing their job of bringing news to MHS, The Pirate News Network (PNN) had a productive year.

For the second year in a row, the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters named PNN the Indiana Television School of the Year. They also won nine individual awards, including first place in TV News Magazine and Best Live TV Anchor. Senior Susan Ware, who was the winner of the Best Live TV Anchor award, said she "felt really happy and proud" upon hearing her name called as winner.

Ware, who wants to pursue a career in broadcasting, said she believes PNN gave her good practice.

"It was a good learning experience, I was very lucky to have such a great advantage," said Ware.

Fellow PNN member Senior Krystal Marshall, who has been a part of PNN for the last two years, joined because she said she "wanted to be on TV after watching the show freshman year."

Now in his fifth year as adviser to PNN, Mr. Mark Ciesielski said the purpose of PNN is "to give students a hands on experience of how broadcasting and video equipment runs."

For this class, students were required to learn how to interview a source, put together a news story and work with a camera.

To next year's members, Marshall advises "to keep up the good work and stay focused."

CLUBS DIRECTORY

Quill and Scroll

Front Row: Heather Zurek, Nicole Vowell, Cambria Hollingsworth, Stephanie Pavlish, Melody Gomez; Second Row: Callie Lucas, Lindsey Trock, Morgan Zellers, Trine Eskesen; Back Row: Michael Padgett, Daniel Nieman

**Newspaper**

Front Row: Matthew Winn, LaResha Jones, Alison Moore, Erica Flores; Back Row: Katherine Kaplar, Ashley Traina, Kiara Hagan, David Richards

**PNN**

Front Row: Genesis Rodrigo, Angela Cast, Amy Gurney, Katrina Makarounas, Tiffany Owen, Nadia Madrid; Second Row: Shanna Kacher, Michael Rivera, Ashley Thomas, Joseph Husek, Susan Ware; Third Row: Lauren Stacks, Lauren Hallenbeck, Alison Conquest, Analy Carrera, Krystal Marshall; Back Row: Robert Kaplar, William Crosby, Phillip Keene, Brian Pucher



Quiz Bowl

Front Row: Charles Cole, Athena Frost, John Bisping, Jameea Long; Second Row: Elliott Johnson, Cheng-Wei Chiang, John Goosby III, Richard Hartline; Back Row: Mr. Scott Staley, Robert Martin, Bill Crosby, Mr. John Lambersie



Academic Decathlon

Front Row: Charles Cole, Athena Frost, Mary Hawkins, Joshua Metz; Second Row: Elliott Johnson, Cheng-Wei Chiang, Richard Hardline; Back Row: Mr. Scott Staley, John Goosby III, Robert Martin, Mr. John Lambersie



Spell Bowl

Front Row: Fiiin Obajuluwa, Angelica Nunn, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner; Second Row: John Goosby III, Athena Frost, Andrea Paulnitz, Neven Holland; Third Row: Khameice Jones, Symone Davis; Back Row: David Bonilla, Daniel Sparks



Super Bowl

Front Row: Fiiin Obajuluwa, Hope Asya-Broughton, Vanessa Powers, Jennifer Weger, Andrea Paulnitz, Athena Frost; Second Row: Mr. Ian Rausei, Cheng-Wei Chiang, John Goosby III, David Bonilla; Third Row: Elliott Johnson, Kyle Bonick, Daniel Sparks, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner; Back Row: Charles Cole, Ben Pankiewicz, Mr. Rob Bedwell, Neven Holland

After counting the items from the Thanksgiving Food Drive, Student Government member Senior Krystle Gill said over 1,000 items were collected from the drive. Student Government sponsors the drive annually, and although plenty of items were collected, the number was still significantly lower than previous years.

Talent shows, dances and other social events throughout the school year are all part of the social life of high school students. During these different events, they come to a better understanding of themselves and their classmates.

Whether students are donating to a food or clothing drive or attending a talent show to support friends, they join together for a common purpose, to show how much they care. Showing the community their appreciation is another important aspect of student life. Community service organizations enable students to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Other clubs, such as the foreign language clubs, allows students to learn about different cultures.

Regardless of the club, the interaction with each other allows students to grow socially. Often, they realize leadership skills and become the leaders of the future.



On stage at the Revue 2006, Junior Jafar Abdul-Hafiz plays his soprano saxophone. Abdul-Hafiz said he only spent about three weeks practicing because he already had an idea of what he wanted to play. Abdul-Hafiz said, "I think this show is really important because it gives the students an opportunity to show their different talents."



Sophomore Michael Rivera pours himself a drink as his date, Junior Katelyn Corman, looks on. This was both Rivera and Corman's first time attending the Freshman-Sophomore Winter Formal, and both agreed they had a "great time." Corman and Rivera said they enjoyed dancing the most.



Homecoming Week

As he shouts with enthusiasm during the Parade, Senior Justin Belko expresses his "Pirate Pride." Whether he was hollering at basketball games or painting his chest during football season, Belko got the crowd going with his spirit.



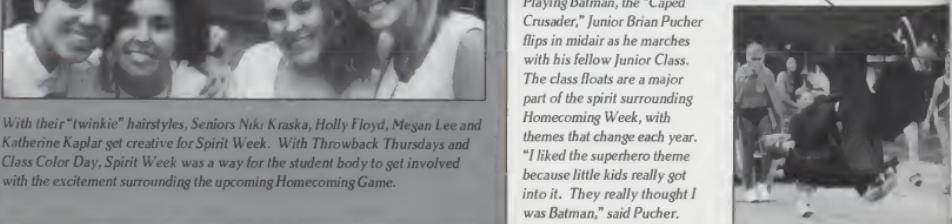
As they sit around the back of a convertible, Seniors Callie Lucas, Evan Parker, Cambria Hollingsworth, Erica Aloia, Asia Carter, James Aldridge and Porsche Bradley ride in the parade. Parker and Aldridge were the 2005 football captains, while the ladies were on the Homecoming Court. "Football Court is cool because you get to be involved in the parade and other festivities," said Lucas.



Drenched in pudding, Junior Benjamin Spires slides down the chocolate covered path at the 2005 Goofy Games. The Pudding Slide has become a popular event at the Homecoming festivities.



With their "twinkie" hairstyles, Seniors Niki Kraska, Holly Floyd, Megan Lee and Katherine Kaplar get creative for Spirit Week. With Throwback Thursdays and Class Color Day, Spirit Week was a way for the student body to get involved with the excitement surrounding the upcoming Homecoming Game.



With biceps flexed, Seniors Edward Flores, Colt Contreras, Vance Gidley and Armando Bravo sit atop the Lions at the Homecoming Parade. "It felt like we were number one and above everybody else. Coming in [to the Homecoming Game] we felt like we had our backs behind us," said Bravo.



Waiting for the announcement of the next position, Freshman Amanda Spudic, Seniors Ashley Thomas and Jacqueline Bella and Sophomore Morgan Mosley attempt to keep their balance during a game of Twister. Thomas said the Goofy Games are "an awesome experience. Every student should get involved in the games at least once during their high school experience."



Show your spirit!

One of Student Government's main jobs throughout the school year includes organizing Homecoming Week, or Spirit Week.

During this week, students could have participated in each day's theme. This year consisted of Pink and Black Day, Throwback Day, Twin Day, Purple and White Day and Class Color Day.

"I think the Pink and Black Day was my favorite," said Senior Krystle Gill, president of Student Government. "There was a lot of participation."

Not only can students participate in each day's theme during Spirit Week, but Goofy Games are also part of Student Government's planning.

"This year we had a lot more participation and a lot more encouragement," said Gill about the Goofy Games.

Games included a Pantyhose Race, Balloon Launch, Pudding Slide and a new game this year called the Pudding Surprise.

The Homecoming Parade was yet another aspect of Spirit Week organized by Student Government.

Student Government held meetings, threw out ideas and voted on the Homecoming Parade's theme: Superheroes.

Senior Megan Lee said she liked the senior float the best because of the "super Pirates" who were throwing flaming footballs at enemies.

"We got a lot more people to participate, and the senior class was involved more," said Lee.

Since Student Government's advisor was out, it was up to the students to organize the whole week, Gill said.

Senior Jarryn Robinson said, "I think Student Government did a good job organizing. It was enjoyable for everyone."

Senior Leigh Nelson said, "Student Government was really organized this year with the whole week."



"Bound together by panty hose, Juniors Bradley Kurczynski and Katrina Makarounas show a little hustle and teamwork at the '05 Goofy Games. Makarounas said, "'07 definitely dominated. We came to win and showed everyone what we are about. I still have the panty hose."



Sitting on the back of a pickup truck, Seniors Tiffany Taylor and Xiomara Vega wave to the crowd along with the rest of the MHS Poms Team. Many teams, clubs and other extra-curricular activities participated in the Homecoming Parade. Taylor said that the parade was "enjoyable because a lot of people came out to see us."

As they relax at the dance, Junior Kyle Yarnell and Sophomore Gabriela Miller sit down to take a break from dancing. The Homecoming Dance had a place where students could unwind from dancing, snack on food, and mingle with friends. Miller said, "The whole night was great. I had fun getting ready and then being at the dance with my boyfriend."



Doing what he calls the "Brett Beatty" move, junior Brett Beatty dances with his friends. "Going to the dance was a time for me and friends to go wild," said Beatty. The Homecoming Dance is Beatty's favorite memory of the school year.



With friends by their sides, Sophomores Desirree Upshaw, Jamille Maynard and Marissa Kendrick dance the Makarena. "We went to the dance as friends," Kendrick said. "It was a lot of fun."



With the music playing, Seniors Stacy Adams and Nathan Chandler dance the night away. Adams said, "The whole night was great, both the dance and after the dance." Many couples went out to eat and to visit at friends' houses after the dance.

Giolas
Photographer
Andy Garcia
puts Freshman
Ryan Schaefer
and his date,
Lauren
Gilmore, in
position for
their formal
dance picture.



*As they embrace
arm in arm, Senior
Dustin Nikolic and
Junior Melissa
Rinkenberger of
Hebron dance
together as a couple.
Nikolic said, "It felt
like she spent ten
hours getting ready.
It only took me five
minutes, but it was
well worth it."*





Doing the Pancake, a popular move, Junior Cody Dallas dances with his friends. "My favorite part of Homecoming was being with my friends and dancing all night," said Dallas.

With Crown Point graduate Tance Dordieski, Senior Adaly Carrera laughs and enjoys her time at the dance. "We went to Chicago after the dance. The whole night was a lot of fun," said Carrera.



Being raised up by his peers, Senior Derek Midkiff dances with all his friends. "I remember the song was really hard to dance to," Midkiff said, "so we just all decided to just make fun of it and goof off, and that's how I ended up in the air." Different styles of dance were seen all throughout the dance.



As they sport attire to match the Las Vegas theme for the dance, Senior Jonathan Woodward and Junior Amanda Povay both wear sunglasses with their outfits for a celebrity feel. Woodward said, "We wanted to give a little more pizzazz to our outfits."

Night in Vegas



Flashing lights, loud music and a dancing crowd were only part of the fun at this year's Homecoming Dance.

Members of Student Government spent most of the day and afternoon decorating and preparing for this night.

The theme, "Viva Las Vegas," was agreed upon as being a step away from last year's theme of "Mardi Gras." Student Government President Krystle Gill said she believed the theme from this year was "more fun and less romantic." The students experienced a lot of fun dancing to upbeat music from a disc jockey. Students were also able to pose for formal pictures with Giolas Photographers in couples or group pictures. When they were not dancing, attendees of the dance

were able to talk with their friends and enjoy refreshments in the lounge. Students also received a keepsake keychain to remember their night in Vegas.

After the dance many students went out to eat or made other plans with their dates or groups of friends. Senior Krystal Marshall, who attended the dance the year before, went single and said she had an enjoyable evening with her friends.

"Afterward I went to Friday's with a bunch of my friends and we had a really good time," said Marshall.

Senior Elaine Hall also experienced a memorable night at the dance.

"Homecoming was a lot of fun and I was glad to go to one of the last dances of my senior year," said Hall.

Reigning Royalty

Dressed in their formal wear, the Homecoming nominees lined up to hear whose name would be announced as Homecoming King, Queen and Princesses.

"I didn't want to go because I thought I was going to lose," Senior Brian Reese said. "I went in not caring if I won or lost so I wouldn't be disappointed."

However, Reese's name was announced as Homecoming King and Senior Jena Bult was honored as Homecoming Queen.

"It was exciting. It was really unexpected," Bult said.

Homecoming Princesses included Junior Blair Mitchell, Sophomore Brianna Ursery and Freshman Lorielle Johnson.

Mitchell said getting nominated was a big deal.

After being crowned Junior Homecoming Queen, Blair Mitchell looks into the crowd. "I was happy and definitely surprised," said Mitchell. She added that no one really knew who was going to win.

"There are a lot of girls in '07, and only ten were picked," Mitchell said.

"I was happy," Ursery said. "I was going up against a lot of girls."

Johnson said getting nominated "means someone is caring enough to nominate you for something important."

"It felt good knowing everybody knew I won," Johnson said. "I felt special."

Key Club members "run the voting, crown, present flowers and delegate other groups to decorate" for Homecoming, said Mrs. Carrie Bedwell, sponsor of Key Club.

Mrs. Bedwell said that the cheerleaders decorated the front doors of the school and the members of the Pom Oin squad decorated the locker room.

As he bends down, Senior Brian Reese receives his crown as Senior Homecoming King, while junior nominees Angela Cast and Madeline Govert watch. "I was surprised and excited," said Reese.



With smiles on their faces, Seniors Vance Gidley and Callie Lucas clap as Senior Jena Bult is announced as Homecoming Queen. "Jena is a really nice girl and deserved to win Homecoming Queen," said Lucas.

Clapping for each of the Senior King nominees, Senior Ashley Thomas, alongside Senior Beaudilio McClendon, anxiously awaits her turn. "I was surprised [to be nominated] because I've never been on court before," said Thomas.





Preceding the crowning, junior Amy Gurney poses for a picture. "I was honored to be nominated with such a great group of girls," said Gurney. She said the nomination was a memorable experience.



As the winner, junior Jena Bult receives her crown for Senior Homecoming Queen as Seniors Callie Lucas, Joseph Lobodinski and Ashley Thomas look on. "I didn't think I was going to win because that was never me. I was surprised," she said.



Before the crowning, Seniors Beaudilio McLendon and Brian Reese wait on the court. "I didn't think I would even be nominated for Homecoming this year since I won Prom King last year," said McLendon.



Patiently awaiting the announcement of the Junior Homecoming Queen, juniors Angela Cast, Madeline Govert and Amy Gurney stare into the crowd. Govert said, "I was happy to be nominated and shocked."

Standing among the nominees, Juniors Blair Mitchell and Amy Vargas flash smiles to the crowd. "It was odd to be nominated. Blair was the right person to win," said Vargas.



After the crowning, Seniors Joseph Lobodinski and Jena Bult pose for a picture together. "Jena deserved to win, and I'm happy for her. I was shocked I even got nominated," said Lobodinski.



Sophomore Jonathan Satkoski and Sophomore Nathan Barnes move around to the rhythm of the song. Satkoski said, "I really enjoyed myself. All of the different types of music had to have been my favorite part." The types of music played included rap, pop and country.



Dancing the popular Electric Slide, everyone moves to the beat of the music. Senior James Rowe said, "The Electric Slide is a great dance. Everyone knows it and we all had a fun time doing it."



On the floor Junior Darrius White dances with his friends. Darrius said that the dance lasted two hours and went very smoothly.

As they move to the music, Freshman Jordan Johnson and Junior Kiara Smith dance. Johnson said, "I love dancing, The Cha Cha Slide was my favorite part."



Once they were inside the dance, Sophomore Jim Releford puts a corsage on his date, Sable Robinson. "We had a great time at the dance. It was fun and we had fun together," said Releford.



(Continued on page 50)

On the dance floor, a group of friends step to the beat of the music. "I had a lot of fun at the dance. It was fun getting dressed up," said Freshman Mercedes Forsell.



Dance with me

"No one sat down. Everyone was dancing the entire time unless they wanted a drink or a snack," said Ms. Barb Dlouhy, Special Education teacher. The Inclusion Dance was held February 16 in the school cafeteria.

About 80 people attended the dance including the special needs students, graduates of the program and peer helpers that help in the class.

"We see a need for a social outlet for the kids, and dancing is something that everyone enjoys. The students like to share fun times just like any other kid," said Ms. Dlouhy.

The difference in this year's Inclusion Dance is that we taped it so that the students could look and watch the tape in class or even buy it," said Ms. Dlouhy.

The boy's Basketball Team also attended the dance.

"Oh what a spark the team brought to the dance. The students were already enjoying the dance, but when they saw the team walk in, the looks on their faces were great. The team danced with the students the whole night. Everyone had fun," said Ms. Dlouhy.

Junior Andrew Anderson attended the

dance with his team and had a "great" time.

"I don't think that we sat down all night. It was so much fun, and we could tell the kids really enjoyed us being there," Anderson said, "There's no doubt about it," that he would attend another Inclusion Dance.

February 17 was another night for yet another dance. The Winter Formal was also held in the schools cafeteria. Sophomore Jessica Matheny attended the dance and won Winter Formal Queen.

"It was really cool. I didn't think that I was going to win, but I told my friends to vote for me and I won. It was nice," said Matheny.

Matheny is in FCCLA, the club that sponsored the Inclusion and Winter Formal Dances. Matheny said that both of the events took months to prepare.

Junior Justin Camisa attended the dance with his girlfriend, Sophomore Katie Wilson.

"The dance was great. We danced a lot and just had a lot of fun," said Camisa.

"I'm pretty sure that everyone at the dance had a great time," said Camisa. "It's just fun memories."



As he gazes at his date, Junior Justin Camisa dances with Sophomore Katie Wilson. "The whole thing was fun. We both really liked the chocolate fountain that they had," said Camisa.

Receiving the crown, Sophomore Jessica Matheny is crowned princess at the Winter Formal. Matheny said, "I was really excited and surprised, I felt very honored." Matheny was voted princess by her classmates.



While at the Winter Formal, Freshman Adam Laturno and Mia Muhammad spend some time on the dance floor. "We both had a great time. It was our first dance together as a couple," said Laturno.

In the main line, Juniors Lauren Hallenback, Rachel Johnson and Christopher Smith move around the dance floor. "I really enjoyed the music this year. They had a little bit of everything," said Johnson.



As they walk through the Grand March, Juniors Yvette Guzman and Drew Dawson smile before all the people watching. "The Grand March is fun because it is a good way to start off the whole night and gets everyone's moods up," said Guzman.



Waiting to go through the Grand March, Senior Kimberly Barnes talks with friends. "The Grand March was by far my favorite part. It was just a great opportunity to get to see everyone and what they were wearing," said Barnes.



Coming out of the limo, Senior Tara Schreiber arrives at Avalon Manor for the prom. "Riding in the limo was a lot of fun. It is just something out of the ordinary life," said Schreiber. After the dance, Schreiber and her friends rode in the limo to Smokey Bones for dinner.



On the dance floor, Senior Ryan Cameron and a student from Lew Wallace, Arneika Ervin, move to the music. "Dancing was by far my favorite part of the night," said Cameron.



While they greet each other at the food table, Seniors Robert Aldrich and Adrian Gober look over their food options. "I thought the food was pretty good. They had a little bit of everything," said Gober.

Come away with me

As May 12 approached, many prom goers had these thoughts on their minds: looking for a dress or a suit, renting limousines, bearing a half day of school and setting up hair, nail and makeup appointments.

The gymnasium was packed for the Grand March, but before the march began, Seniors Beaudilio McClendon and Kamai Westbrooks crowned the new Prom King and Queen, Juniors Drew Dawson and Angela Cast.

"At first I felt nervous, but when they said my name, I felt real good and excited," said Dawson.

Cast agreed. "It just topped my entire year. After swimming and Homecoming, winning (Prom Queen) topped it all."

Posing for a picture, the current Prom Court smiles at the Grand March. "Winning Prom Queen just topped off my whole entire year. It was a great feeling," said Junior Angela Cast.

With the theme of "Come Away With Me," Avalon Manor was decorated with all types of props related to sailing.

After four hours of eating, dancing and exchanging laughs, prom goers had a little more energy for a post-prom party. Senior Ryan Pozezanac and Junior David Richards II said they went camping after Prom. Junior Jessica Falls said she and a group of friends went out to eat in Merrillville and went to Six Flags Great America the following day.

After spending a lot of time in preparation and money — Dawson, for example, said he spent around \$800 — many prom goers agreed that the preparations were all worthwhile.

Together, Seniors Brittany Jones and Kevin Wilson move on the dance floor. "The whole night was great. It wasn't what I expected, but I was pleasantly surprised," said Jones.

At the Grand March, PNN adviser Mr. Mark Ciesielski interviews Senior Justin Burke. "All my expectations were fulfilled, and I especially loved dancing. I was a dancing machine," said Burke.



Members of the court, Juniors Melissa Darang and David Lobodinski dance the first slow dance of the night. "It was really nice being nominated for court. I enjoyed everything about it," said Darang.

To help out at the Kids' Carnival, Senior Nyssa Brown paints flowers on children's faces. "I like painting, so it was a lot of fun making kids happy by decorating them," said Brown.



Sporting prom fashion, members of the Key Club show off the new styles. "The dresses were beautiful and the whole show went real well. We were very pleased with the outcome," said Junior Whitney Criggs.

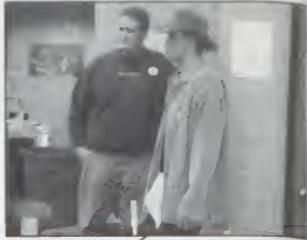


Ready to pose for the prom fashion show, Junior Geoffrey Sperling, Freshman Nolan Sullivan and Junior Victor Williams laugh together. "We all had a lot of fun, plus it was a plus that we helped raise money for someone who needed the money for prom," said Williams. The profits of the fashion show went to a girl who needed money for prom.

To bring a smile to children's faces, Junior Geoffrey Sperling wears an Easter basket as head gear. "I thought it would be funny. I was just enjoying my time," said Sperling.



After they have eaten their share of chili, Mr. Robert Bedwell and Mr. James Stamper observe the Chili Cook-off. Stamper's outfit, "I would do anything to help support and benefit this event. I love how all the proceeds go to the Lupus foundation," said Mr. Stamper.



At the Chili Cook-off, Senior Shemeka Wright works the hot dog booth. "This was my first year doing Key Club," said Wright. "Doing community work is really important. I think what they are doing is great."





Front Row: Whitney Griggs, Amber Wilson; Shannon Bier, Rebecca Hoffman, Diana Ramirez; Second Row: Jennifer Weger, Caroline Stephens, Angie Rousis, Jena Bult, Geoffrey Sperling; Third Row: Brian Morrow, Pedro Lara, Lauren Payne, Vanessa Powers, Shameka Wright, Crystal Hernandez; Back Row: Nolan Solomon, Kim Nason, Krystal Marshall, Pamela Johnson, Victor Williams, Mrs. Carrie Bedwell



During the Kids' Carnival, Senior Teniqua Teamer helps a child with a taffy apple. "My favorite part was interacting with the kids. The whole idea of the carnival is great," said Teamer.

Running the Bozo Bucket stand, Senior Lorna Blondet helps out at the Kids' Carnival. "This was my first time helping out at one of the Key Club's events. I really enjoyed it," said Blondet.



Making an impact on the lives of many is something that Key Club members pride themselves on. Along with the guidance of five year club advisor, Mrs. Carrie Bedwell, the club has kept tradition with many projects as well as taking on a few new tasks.

"Watching the members grow and develop [as they participate] and seeing them realize their impact on the community is the best part," said Mrs. Bedwell.

The Key Club participated in "The Four Seasons," which included a project for each season. Also, they took on a new project called "Blankets of Love."

"Blankets of Love was a project we did with the elementary students," said the club's vice president, Junior Ashley Elser.

Also the club held its annual big event, the Halloween Carnival for Camp Riley.

"It was a lot of fun because we got a moonwalk and a bunch of different games for everyone," said the club's president Sophomore Pedro Lara.

Besides the large projects that the club took on, there were also fundraisers and other charitable events. Helping out at the soup kitchen is a tradition among Key Club events along with the Senior Citizens' Prom and the Prom Fashion Show.

Sophomore Kimberly Nason said, "The Prom Fashion Show was a great success this year because it was more student-led than in previous years."

Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council

Front Row: Renee Schmellmeyer, Amy Vargas, Madeline Govert, Maunya Jacobs, Denise Coleman; Second Row: Erica Aloia, Callie Lucas, Stephanie Pavlish, Heather Zurek; Third Row: Lauren Hallenbeck, Jessica Boursier, Richard Reddick III, Raquel Guerrero, Arielle Anderson; Back Row: Stoton Stotko, Beaudilio McClendon, Darryl Evans, Ashley Thomas



Chess Club

Front Row: Elizabeth Bandy, Joseph Abad, Michael Sweet, Cody Niles; Second Row: Cheng-Wei Chiang, Robert Martin, Maryjoan Martin; Back Row: Elliot Johnson, Harry Boskamp III, Roy Bishop



French Club

Front Row: Elizabeth Bandy, Diana Ramirez, Raquel Guerrero, Magen Fassoth, Simone Howard; Second Row: Abby Deidigha, Jamil Yasin, John Goosby III, Alan Camper II, Neven Holland; Third Row: Jimmy Gedda, Shemera Wright, Alison Conquest, Krystal Marshall, Nicole Langford; Back Row: Bryant Garcia, Brandon Fles, Jafar Abdul-Hafiz, Miss Irene Spiro





Spanish Club

Megan Gunn, Krystie Reed, Desiree Walker, Michael Rivera



Russian Club

Donald Bhe, Matt Mayo, Zhenya Bezvin, Andrea Reed, Mr. Al Stoner



German Club

Front row: Brett Johnson, Kelsey Beshears, Steve Hadi; Back Row: Clarence Powell, Jon Sturgeon, Joe Abad, Mr. Al Stoner



As they eat their dinner, Sophomores Michael Martin and Kyle Lamb enjoy themselves at White Rose restaurant. Martin said the German Club taught him to play German Monopoly.



Scooping up more food, Seniors Diana Ramirez, Krystal Marshall and Raquel Guerrero enjoy a meal during their visit to Café Fondue with French Club members. Guerrero said the French Club is a way "to learn about other countries and the culture that they live in."



On a visit to the White Rose restaurant, members of the German Club check out the menu. Mr. Al Stoner said, "The White Rose is named after a student led Resistance Movement that opposed Hitler."



With glasses in their hands, Seniors Magen Fassoth and Alison Conquest make a toast with others at their table at Café Fondue. The club enjoyed cheese fondue, salad, chicken and chocolate fondue, said Fassoth, treasurer of the French Club.

National Honor Society

Front Row: Callie Lucas, Nicole Vowell, Erica Aloia, Jessica Francis, Morgan Zellers, Jacqueline Bell; Second Row: Alayna Bella, Tiffany Kedziora, Rania Kaouki, Megan Lee, Heather Zurek; Back Row: Niki Kraska, Katherine Kaplar, Harry Boskamp III, Holly Floyd, Lindsey Trock, Stephanie Pavlish

As other senior National Honor Society members look on, Senior Katherine Kaplar, NHS President, speaks at the induction ceremony for juniors. "My speech was to explain what makes you a part of NHS. I introduced the background information," Kaplar said.



Sporting the official walkathon shirts, former Merrillville graduates Cathy Gaines and her brother, Steven Gaines, participate in the event sponsored by the National Honor Society. Mrs. Barb Dlouhy, an intense interventions teacher, said, "It was a lot of fun and well organized. Our special needs department appreciate the efforts. We hope NHS will help us next year because we can certainly use the extra funding."



As they lead the crowd, NHS members, Seniors Joseph Duggins and Harry Boskamp III, participate in the annual walkathon event. "It makes me feel good inside to help the people in need," said Boskamp.



With help from Senior Janya Robinson, Senior Aimee Ortega reads over her speech before the NHS induction ceremony. Ortega presented a speech about one of the characteristics of being a member of NHS. "It's fun being a member because we get together, thinking of ways to help the school and people," said Ortega.



Students Against Destructive Decisions

Front Row: Renee Schmelmeyer, Hannah Watkins, Amy Vargas, Daniela Rios; Back Row: Mrs. Erin Flores, Megan Lovick, Megan McNeil, Shemeka Wright



With smiles on their faces, Juniors Desirree Walker and Maunya Jacobs walk in the SADD Candlelight Walk from Clifford Pierce Middle School to Merrillville High School. "It was a lot of fun because after we walked, we came back to the high school and went to the cafeteria to read poetry and had refreshments," said Walker.



Walking along with the crowd, Juniors Daniel Dwyer and Kyle Morris participate in the SADD Candlelight Walk. "I went because I wanted to support the fight against drunk driving. That was what the walk was all about," said Morris.

Despite the rain, Principal Mike Krutz and his son, Carson, walk with their candles. Mr. Krutz said, "I think it's important that teachers and faculty members take part in activities that student groups sponsor."



Future Educators of America

Shemeka Wright is a member of the Future Educators of America. The organization organizes the annual Teacher Appreciation Week.



FCCLA

Front Row: Jamie Sieb, Nikki Bella, Amanda Churilla, Brittney Andrade; Second Row: Miss Carol VonBehren, Jessica Matheny, Cherelle Dunn, Natalie Lipp, Miss Jennifer Malik; Back Row: Shemeka Wright, Katie Wilson, Sam Ely, Nick Pecenica



Preparing for the Freshman and Sophomore Winter Formal and the Inclusion Dance, Senior Tiffany Kedziora and Sophomores Katie Wilson and Felicia Kedziora hang decorations in the cafeteria. Felicia Kedziora's favorite activities this year were the preparations and the dances because "I was with all my friends and met new people as well."



To help prepare for the Inclusion Dance, Sophomore Natalie Lipp creates nametags. On hosting the Inclusion Dance, Lipp said, "I was happy to act as a host. It gave the special needs students something special."



SOSA

Front Row: Shannon Bier, Sireenna Elias, Miss Melissa Volkman; Back Row: Daniel Sparks, James Gedda, Geoff Sperling, Victor Williams II



After the Inclusion Dance, members of FCCLA enjoy pizza. "The members did an outstanding job carrying out all the details," said FCCLA sponsor Mrs. Carol VonBehren.



STAND

Front Row: Victor Williams, Ashley Jimenez, Desiree Walker, Jena Bult, Danielle Roberts, Nadia Madrid, Nicole Price, Brandon Kapitan, Kandace Greene; Second Row: Britney Maddox-Lee, Eniola Akinrinade, Lareta A-Mensan, Monica Winbush, Shannon Frey, Diana Ramirez, Riana Smith, Aniyah Butler, Andrea Reed, Courtney Bargfeldt, Angelica Nunn, Brianna Collins; Third Row: Lauren Payne, Krystal Marshall, Kiara Hagan, Courtney Weldon, Kortney Nicholson, Brittany Comer, Krystie Reed, Kamary Nunn, Whitney Williams, Joseph Mireles, Clarissa Ehlers; Fourth Row: Marcus Whitt, Alan Camper, Kyle Johnson, Ta'Shai Nelson, Matthew Littrell, Khameice Jones, Anthony Jimenez, Mychaela Bryant, Amanda Velasquez, Pedro Lara, Shekinah Taylor; Back Row: Marc Wilson, Son Nguyen, Mr. Danny Lackey, Robert Wright, Justin White, Joseph Lobodinski, Harold Sallee, Blake Sohacki, Symone Davis, Anthony Barnes

Reciting a poem at the STAND International Coffeehouse, Junior Harold Sallee speaks of the importance of bringing all people together. Sallee said he joined STAND to "break the walls of racism and help others understand the need for diversity."

During the International Coffeehouse held in the Clifford Pierce Middle School Cafetorium, members of STAND perform a skit about diversity. This year, STAND advisor Mr. Danny Lackey let the students run the entire program. "It went very well," he said.



As Senior Blake Sohacki plays the song, "Prelude in C," guests of the STAND International Dinner enjoy the entertainment. Sohacki said that the members are "a big family of future do-gooders."

Sharing her views about diversity and equality, Senior Danielle Roberts, President of STAND, reads a speech during STAND's International Coffeehouse. "The International Coffeehouse was my favorite event this year because it had a multicultural theme and included Starbuck's coffee," said Roberts.



Holding position at the Homecoming parade, Sophomore Kipp Moore, Senior Candace Jones, Senior Brandon Urquidi and Sophomore John Perkins wait for their turn to begin walking. "The parade was a lot of fun. It was a little bit hot, but I think that people enjoyed the show," said Urquidi.



Participating in the "Knock-out Drill", Sophomore Anna Acosta, Freshman Acacia Spencer and Sophomore Destiny Blink, hold the salute. "The drill really isn't hard. It just takes practice and participation. We do it all the time," said Blink.



During a home football game, Sophomore John Perkins, Senior Brandon Urquidi, Senior Robert Luente and Sophomore Kipp Moore present the colors. The Honor Guard performs during the National Anthem at home football games.



Standing in front of a staff meeting held in the AFJROTC classroom, new cadre, Senior Donald York, introduces himself to members of the staff. Members attended competitions in Ohio during the school year and won several first place awards for the Drill and Honor Guard.

"I was honored to be promoted to Corps Commander. It was an exciting moment," said Senior Candace Jones. Jones has been in AFJROTC for two years and was in charge of the Corps.



Standing for the National Anthem during the Change of Command Ceremony, the AFJROTC class stands quietly and honors the flag. The Corps attended the ceremony in the arena.



Being promoted to Vice Corps Commander by Senior Candace Jones, TSgt. Michael Miller, and Maj. Guy Ramey, Senior Brandon Urquidi, is thankful for all the hard work he put in the class to get this far. "This rank takes a lot of responsibility and effort to successfully fulfill your duties," said Urquidi.

Saluting Maj. Guy Ramey, Senior Candace Jones is promoted to Cadet Lieutenant Colonel. "The Corps commander oversees the whole corps, holds staff meetings, and everyone answers to me and I make sure that discipline is enforced," said Jones. Jones said that she was excited about the duties of a Corps Commander.





Corps Commander
Senior Candace
Jones, Vice Corps
Commander Senior
Brandon Urquidi



Honor Guard

Front Row: Freshman Jeanne Saffrahn, Freshman Katrina Underhill, Sophomore Danielle Kusmar; Second Row: Sophomore Jeremy West, Senior Brandon Urquidi; Back Row: Freshman Luv-Joy Spencer, Sophomore Kipp Moore, Sophomore John Perkins



Drill Team

Front Row: Sophomore Destiny Blink, Senior Robin Allen, Senior Raquel Allen, Junior Ikela Dean, Senior Candace Jones; Second Row: Freshman Acacia Spencer, Sophomore Josalyn Scaife, Sophomore Lucinda Madera, Sophomore Vanesa Pagan; Third Row: Senior Keonni Robinson, Freshman Michelle Minard, Freshman Uniontonia Harper, Freshman Luv-Joy Spencer; Back Row: Freshman Tremell Teamer, Sophomore John Perkins

AFJROTC students take the lead

With opportunities ranging from drill team competitions to aerospace classes, Air Force Junior Reserved Official Training Corps members went into the year with a goal of becoming better citizens.

There are two main courses taught in this program: Leadership and Aerospace Science.

Major Guy Ramey explained the benefits of teaching the students leadership.

"This course makes the students better citizens," said Major Guy Ramey. "They learn basic military knowledge, how to react and respond, how to march, basic drills and how to properly wear uniforms."

The AFJROTC members not only learn about the military but also have the chance to compete on the Drill Team.

"The purpose of the drill is to help people pay attention to details," said Senior Brandon Urquidi.

This year marked the second year for the AFJROTC to compete in drill competitions.

"The drill team competitions are fun, but very hectic and demanding. They can make you very nervous, but they're rewarding experiences," said Senior Candace Jones.

The second course, Aerospace Science, teaches the students everything they need to know about flying an airplane.

"We teach the students the three main parts of Aerospace Science: the science of flight, aviation history and exploration space," said Sergeant Michael Miller.

"We learn what kind of things make up the airplane, what makes it fly and how it stays up," Urquidi said.

Some students taking this course also plan on taking AFROTC in college or joining the military.

"It's a passion of mine. I like the military structure and the discipline, and I'll also make good money and have all kind of benefits," Jones said.

Major Guy Ramey said he believes AFJROTC will help prepare students for the future.

He said, "The students can succeed when they leave here to be the best person they can be when they go out to the real world."

Freshman Class Officers

Robert Melby, Sami Serwacki, Hanni Reynolds, Amanda Spudic

**Sophomore Class Officers**

Jessica Boursier, David Bonilla, Chatrice Cade

**Junior Class Officers**

Ashish Arshanapalli, Tim Reddick

**Senior Class Officers**

Niki Kraska, Jessica Francis, Heather Zurek, Megan Lee

**Student Government Officers**

Front Row: Cheryl Munchenburg, Krystle Gill, Simone Howard; Back Row: Pedro Lara, Byron Turner



Student Government offers help throughout the school

From fundraisers for graduation to community service activities, members of Student Government and class officers continued to help people this year.

Senior Krystal Gill, the Student Government president, thought the year went better than expected.

The Student Government members coordinated the Homecoming Week festivities, the Thanksgiving food drive

and Stress Free Week and sold Orange Crush to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children.

"I have really enjoyed Student Government, and it makes me realize how many great people there are out there," said newly appointed District Representative Sophomore Pedro Lara.

The class officers also accomplished great things, said Senior Class Treasurer

Heather Zurek. The list of activities included fundraising for senior activities such as graduation and the Senior-Faculty Basketball Game.

Junior Richard Reddick said he believes that his experience as class president will help him in his future.

Reddick said, "I took on this position because I wanted to learn leadership traits that I could use in my future."

Student Government

Front Row: Amanda Spudic, Simone Howard, Cheryl Munchenburg, Sarah Wolf, Rebecca Hoffman; Second Row: Krystle Gill, Teresa Munchenburg, Heather Zurek, Jessica Francis, Megan Lee, Jena Bult, Hanni Reynolds, Sami Serwacki; Third Row: Tim Reddick, Chantrice Cade, Lauren Payne, Brianna Jenkins, Serenka Wright, Nicole Silbersdorf, Corey Holtz, Kiara Hagan, Krystal Marshall; Fourth Row: Pedro Lara, David Bonilla, Niki Kraska, Jessica Boursier, Robert Melby; Back Row: Byron Turner, Jacob Kapitan, Carlton Hoyles, Nick Pecenica, Ashish Arshanapalli



To lend a helping hand, Senior Krystle Gill packs food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. "All of our events this year were really successful. We had a lot of support from the school which definitely made a difference," said Gill.



Showing his school spirit, Mr. Nick Petralia smashes the car during Homecoming Spirit Week. Mr. Petralia will be the next year's Student Government sponsor.



Sorting through donations, Senior Nicole Silbersdorf helps Student Government members with the Thanksgiving Food Drive. This project was one of many events sponsored by the Student Government.

Taking her turn in the spotlight, Senior Morgan Gill sings during the choir's winter concert. After preparing for about a month, Gill said she felt ready and was not too nervous to take center stage. Achieving better tone and pitch are Gill's greatest accomplishments since the beginning of her singing career in high school choir.

Taking the stage at a concert or theatrical performance is the reward for the students' hard work.

Months of practices and rehearsals prepare performers for a flawless presentation. After months of training, students in choir, band, orchestra and the theatre arts classes anxiously anticipate performing for an audience.

The expectation is to execute an ideal performance, and this requires remarkable dedication.

The styles of different performers draw audiences to the shows put on by students. The excitement surrounding performances brings in crowds who appreciate the dedication of students who are learning a new craft.

All entertainers strive for a great performance, and ultimately, everyone looks forward to an experience that is fun and enjoyable.



Reading his music at the orchestra's winter concert, Sophomore Pedro Lara focuses on his performance and hitting the right notes. Lara has been playing the violin for six years and said the hardest part of preparing for a concert is "playing in unison."



On stage during the fall performance of "Children of Eden," Senior Brittany Jones plays the character of Eve. Although Jones prepared for a month before the performance, she said "getting into character" was the hardest part of the play.



Trumpeteer Edwin Smith, a freshman, performs a horn move during halftime. The marching band is an Indiana State School Music Association district and regional qualifier that marched in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade, Walt Disney World's Magic Music Days, the Outback Bowl and in the Bahamas.

Members of the band perform in their annual winter concert. The concert featured Christmas songs like, "When Angels Weep" and "Sleigh Ride." Mr. Bob Myers, the head band director, was pleased with the concert. Mr. Myers said, "This was one of the better concerts we have ever had."



With their eyes on the drum major, Senior Scott Stephen and Sophomore Corbin Massa watch to stay in step with the rest of the marching band with. Stephen, a member of the percussion, or drum line, has been marching with the band for all four years of his high school career. He said, "I stayed in band because I have a lot of friends in band and because I like the percussion section." Stephens said he would like to join a band or musical club when he gets into college.

As she marches, Jaclyn Nason, a sophomore, points her trumpet up to reverberate her music to the crowd. Nason said she was pleased with the marching band season, but thought that they could have done better. She said she will continue participating in band in the future. Nason said, "I like marching band because you make art on the field with over a hundred different people and you become a family."

As he plays his saxophone, Freshman Desmond Jones joins his fellow Pep Band Members, Freshmen Taylor Douglas and Joshua Stackler in the playing of the school song. Jones has been in band since middle school and said his favorite part of the band was playing his alto saxophone. He said, "I like the smooth and warm sound it makes."



Performing during the "Tiempo Latino" routine, Junior Jafar Abdul-Hafiz plays his soprano saxophone in harmony with the rest of the marching band. Abdul-Hafiz, the first chair of the saxophone section, said he has not decided if he wants to play his saxophone in college, but would definitely like to play as a hobby.

Marching band members take a pause in their marching to play the climax of their show. Their routine involved music and dance from South America. The band had a successful season and advance to the regional portion of the state marching band competition.

Band keeps on playing

One could find the Pirates Marching Band performing their "Tiempo Latino" routine during halftime at every varsity football game or competing at any six of their season's competitions. The Marching Band is made up of freshmen through seniors. Rain or shine, the Band of Pirates took the field at every performance and put on a show.

The band performed at six competitions this season, and although the Pirates did not advance past Regionals this year, they are very hopeful for their future.

Band Director Mr. Bob Myers said, "We had a lot of very talented freshmen this year, but they were just too inexperienced."

Mr. Myers also said the band's success was dependent on the guidance and leadership of its upperclassmen, and because of the small number of seniors who participated this season a successful season was a tough accomplishment.

Senior David Lopez stated, "For the band to make it past Regionals next year, they need to practice, practice and practice."

The difficulties of getting a large group of teens together during the summer days to put together a show also proved a challenge.

Lopez discussed the most difficult part of band was not putting on the show, but "bringing everyone together to clean up the routine because everyone is just so busy."

Sophomore Corbin Massa agreed getting everyone together was tough, but added, "Everyone needs to take it [Marching Band] more seriously if we want to really improve."

While the band lacked seniors this year, Massa assured his class would improve their leadership techniques next season.

"I want us to get further next season, and if that means stepping up then we will," said Massa.

The seven months of planning and practicing start in January to decide what show will be performed for the upcoming season. Mr. Myers said, the planning starts early in order to be sure the band can take on the show the directors pick. No specific guidelines are followed to pick a piece, but choosing a fun, unique and playable work are characteristics looked for in a possible show.

For next year, Mr. Myers said, "We have to receive a gold rating at Regionals." The Pirates will continue to practice three times a week to achieve their goal.

With flag in hand and ready to "toss a double," Junior Megan Fisch runs through her routine before a competition. "I've been competing for three years, and I really enjoy it, especially Winter Guard because it is more intense, and everyone gets really focused," said Fisch. For competitions, performers practiced sometimes three or more times a week.



Front Row: Vanessa Alexander, Krystin Reed, Michelle Demming, Tishanera Jones, Keshia Mathis; Second Row: Jahlik Brown, Valerie Angotti, Ashley Jimenez, Megan Fisch, Danielle Dettoline, Natalie Lipp; Back Row: Simone Davis, Tiarra Jordan, Shamira Jordan, Khameice Jones

While dancing, Sophomore Ashley Jimenez grabs her flag and does part of her routine. "This was my first year competing with Winter Guard. I really enjoyed it," said Jimenez.



As she practices her routine before a crowd of parents the night before a big competition, junior Valerie Angotti twirls her flag in midair. "Competing is my favorite part of Winter Guard. I practice really hard," said Angotti. The Winter Guard Team competes during a winter season. In the fall, members comprise the Color Guard and perform with the band.

Spinning her rifle, Junior Michelle Demming twirls out on the football field. "I like twirling rifles better than twirling flags. It is challenging and more difficult to learn," said Demming.

'The biggest misconception of us is that it is so easy that you don't have to practice.'

Dancing, twirling and moving to the music, the members of the Color Guard show off their talent. The members explained that the audience does not know how much talent and skill this performing art involves.

"The biggest misconception is that it is so easy that you don't have to practice. This is not it at all. Our practices are hard and have a lot of memorizing involved," said Junior Michelle Demming.

Coached by Mrs. Kristen Durnbaugh, who has marched for 15 years, the Color Guard team has two seasonal branches: Fall Guard and Winter Guard. Winter Guard competes against other teams, while Fall Guard performs with the band at half-time during football games.

The Color Guard started early their season with practices in the summer. These practices involved going over routines and technique.

"Our coach really helped out this season. She was the one to push us when no one else would," said Sophomore Katelynn Kora.

The Color Guard wrapped up their summer practices dancing alongside the band to prepare for their half-time routine. Throughout the year, Color Guard practiced three or more times a week. This sometimes meant they had to give up their Saturdays in order to become a better team.

When members of the Color Guard competed, they were judged in basic categories such as the general effect of their performance, how well they used their equipment (rifles, sabers and flags) and the emotion brought through their performance.

"Competing this season was a lot of fun," said Junior Megan Fisch. "We placed successfully and were able to watch the amazing things the other teams did."



Front Row: Megan Fisch; Second Row: Laurie Hawkins, Colleen Renee Madalfferi, Ashley Jimenez, Amanda Spudick, Valerie Angotti; Third Row: Brittni Braddock, Michelle Demming, Shamira Rena Malone, Katelynn Kora; Back Row: Khameice Jones, Geoffrey Sperling, Alyssa Whaley, Jessica Savin

Performing on the field during halftime at a football game, Sophomore Shamira Malone completes her routine with the band. "I've been doing Guard for three years now, and I love it," said Malone. During their routines, Color Guard performers used various types of equipment, including flags and rifles.

Nailing the routine

Creation of generations

Not long after the school year started, auditions were already taking place for the fall musical, "Children of Eden." This year's production included some old faces along with many new people who wanted to get into the action. Although this was some peoples' first time on stage, it does not mean that it hurt the performance. One surprise addition to the cast was Choir Director Roger Emig. Although Mr. Emig has played piano in the pit for many years, he never tried the onstage aspect of performing.

Mr. Emig, who played Father in the play, said, "I enjoyed being in character on and off stage. It was a wonderful experience."

Although Mr. Emig enjoyed the experience he said he still had feelings of "sheer terror" before going on stage. Along with Mr. Emig, many students played in lead roles for the first time. Seniors Brittany Jones, Donald Toth and Courtney Miller were some of the many new faces on stage. Along with these newcomers came some old faces in Seniors Daniel Nieman II, Sheena Mitchell and Junior Jaclyn Boskamp.

The play is loosely based on the first chapters of Genesis. Act One included the story of creation, the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and the death of Adam's son Abel. Act Two included the story of Noah's ark and the flooding of the world. Although this play is set at the creation of the world, its characters can still be related to people today.

Toth said, "I relate with my character because I often fight with my family just like Cain and Japeth do in the play."

The play's theme can also be related to today. Nieman said, "Families will have trials and problems they have to endure, but they are still a family in the end."

Offering the audience a backdrop of the Biblical reference of creation, the three leading roles try to reveal a theme. Choir Director Roger Emig filled the role of God, while Seniors Daniel Nieman II and Brittany Jones acted as Adam and Eve. Mr. Emig decided to perform in his first Merrillville High School production so that, "I could have a chance to be a singer and to interact more with the students."

As they sing their way through their roles as Yonah and Japheth, Junior Jaclyn Boskamp and Senior Donald Toth both reveal that singing was their favorite part of producing this musical. The fall musical brought together many individuals of different ages and backgrounds. "I enjoyed getting to know people better, especially seniors like Donald Toth," said Boskamp.



As the serpent tempts Senior Brittany Jones, her character Eve must decide her fate. The serpent was made up of Senior Megan Lee, Senior Niki Kraska, Junior Marcus Patikas, Senior Lindsey Trock and Junior Michael Cameron. Trock said, "It was really difficult to keep a straight face and act devious while playing the serpent."

Accompanied by a pit orchestra, the cast sings a song about generations of families while dancing in brightly colored costumes. The first act offered naturally colored costumes because it reflected nature and creation, while the second act included vibrant costumes to express the creativity of man. "This production had better costumes than previous shows we've done," said Junior Jaclyn Boskamp.

"... still a family in the end."



Revealing their feelings through musical lyrics, Cain and Abel, played by Senior Donald Toth and Junior Dwayne Johnson, offer the audience the prominent theme of the musical. Toth said the theme expressed "sticking with family because it's the most important in life."



Joined together at the family dining table, cast members Senior Donald Toth, Senior Courtney Miller, Junior Dwayne Johnson, Senior Sheena Mitchell, Senior Daniel Nieman II, Senior Joseph Miraless and Sophomore Elizabeth Martin illustrate the importance of family, a common theme in the musical. "The cast was a really close group. We got along well and put together an amazing show," said Nieman.



Performing to the beat, Senior Sheena Mitchell and the cast dance and sing to the music played by a their accompaniment. Choreography and song were the two of the main components of the production of this musical. "This was the most difficult musical I've done because I had to sing and dance simultaneously," Mitchell said.

'...every year gets better and better'

For performances and contests like ISSMA, the students in orchestra prepared daily.

"We practice in class everyday and some of the students even practice more at home," said Freshman Michele Myers.

Myers has been in orchestra for three years and plans on continuing for three more years. To Myers, the best part of orchestra is her instructor, Mr. John Bradford.

"Mr. Bradford is really cool. He always takes his time with us and he makes playing the violin fun," said Myers.

Sophomore Irene Lopez is also in orchestra and said she loves it.

"I've been playing since the seventh grade and every year gets better and better," said Lopez.

Her favorite part about orchestra is the concerts. Orchestra puts on several concerts a year: Halloween(Fall) concert, Christmas concert, pre-contest and contest concerts and Spring concert. They also perform at the February ISSMA contest and at Graduation.

Lopez thinks that her class is a strong class, and the music they put on is really enjoyable.

"We play jazz, classical, pop, songs from movies and things from the Beatles," said Lopez.

The class's goal this year was to do well at ISSMA and bring home trophies and awards in class pieces, solo pieces and group pieces.

In an effort to keep the orchestra together during the annual orchestra holiday concert, Mr. John Bradford conducts during a piece of music. "I was really happy with the talent that we had this year. The orchestra has really improved throughout the year, which made for a very successful concert and ISSMA competition," said Mr. Bradford.

As he reads the music, Sophomore Zachary Banks concentrates to make sure he is playing in tune. "I always try to keep focused while I am playing because if I don't focus then I get off key and the orchestra sounds bad," said Banks.



With their eyes on the music, Freshmen Caitlyn Spires and Michelle Myers play their violins in the annual orchestra holiday concert. Spires said that she chose to play the violin because an older friend that also played the violin inspired her. "I always went over to her house, and she would always play her violin for me," she said.

Flipping to the next page of his music, Sophomore Wyatt Perkins plays his string bass. "I really didn't choose to play the string bass; I was just given it. Now that I have played it for a while, I love it," said Perkins. Perkins earned a gold rating as a member of two ensembles that participated in the state ISSMA competition.

Strings and other things



While he concentrates on playing his string bass, Senior Brian Albee plays with his fellow bassists. "I decided to be in orchestra because I couldn't sing, and I didn't want to be like everyone else and be in band." Albee was given the opportunity to play in the All-State Orchestra. He also spent the summer before his senior year touring Europe playing his string bass.



In the midst of playing, Senior Ebony Holly works on her posture during a day in orchestra class. "Orchestra has helped me relax whenever I am stressed. When ever I get stressed out I play my violin," said Holly.

As she plays with the orchestra, Sophomore Kristen Hoyles watches the fingerboard on her violin.

In the Christmas Concert, Freshmen Markella Papamihalakis and Kayla Haney perform on stage. "Performing has to be my favorite part about being in choir. That, and all the friends I've made," said Haney.



While at their concert, the Bell Choir performs for the audience. "I really enjoyed the group I had for Bell Choir this year. They worked really hard and worked well together," said Mrs. Melinda Reinhart.



Snapping to the beat of the music, Sophomore Josalyn Scaife and Freshmen Kelsi Pepper, Ashlynn Taylor and Sarah Polak keep their eyes on the audience. "Learning the routines was probably my favorite part about Concert Choir," said Scaife.



Dancing and singing, Freshmen Kelly Tarr, Kristin Alvarez and Trina Underhill perform at the Christmas Concert. "I like choir, especially performing, but learning the new songs and dances probably has to be the hardest part," said Alvarez.

Singing in harmony

Singing Christmas carols, Senior Crystallynn Roy, Junior Heather Walker, Seniors Cecilia Rivera and Shakeira Soto, and Sophomores Paula Ketcham and Vanessa Alexander look toward the



Performing together, the boys from Concert Choir sing on stage. "Performing gives you an adrenaline rush. I love singing and performing," said Freshman Anthony Wright.

All at once, the Concert Choir sings in unison. "Concert Choir is a lot of fun, especially performing," said Freshman Mandy Weis. The Concert Choir performs three times during the year.

With a new class, the Hand Bell Choir, Mrs. Reinhart has had to adjust to not only teaching the new freshmen in her Concert Choir and Varsity Choir but also to teaching this class for the first time.

"I've never really taught (Hand Bell Choir), but I've played," Mrs. Reinhart said. "Almost all of the girls played at Pierce."

This year was Sophomore Lindsey Hauber's first year doing hand bells. Hauber said they learned "different ways to play the bells and sightreading."

Not only was this a new class to teach, but it was also a class to equip.

"We had one set (of hand bells), and we borrowed from Pierce to get started," Mrs. Reinhart said.

Although Hand Bell Choir can be made up of people from any grade, Mrs. Reinhart said it was made up of all sophomore girls this year.

The Concert Choir is composed of girls from grades 10-12 and boys from grades 9-12, and the Varsity Choir is just freshmen.

Senior Renee Schmellmeyer is in Concert Choir, and she said she has been in choir for nine years.

"We've done a lot better this year, and the freshmen boys caught on faster," Schmellmeyer said.

"Freshman year, I was really shy. I wouldn't get up and sing. Senior year, it's no big deal. I don't care if I'm used as an example (in class). My confidence level has changed."

All three choirs put on three concerts this year: the Christmas Concert, the Contest Concert and the Spring Concert.

Mrs. Reinhart said the Christmas and Contest Concerts "went really well."

"It's always a challenge because of the freshmen coming from Pierce. It's a challenge to gel as a group," she added.

In choir, "theory is important," said Mrs. Reinhart. "Watching how the melody goes is important."

Mrs. Reinhart said, "I'm finding that we're able to do more theory test. They are starting to do both pitch and rhythm at the same time. The class as a whole got it quickly."

'It's a challenge to gel as a group.'

Showing their choreography steps, the Vocalteen boys dance to "The Musical World of Walt Disney." One aspect of being in Vocalteens was the chance to have a dance partner. Since there was a shortage of boys in choir, many girls did not have partners but they said they still had a good time performing for audiences.



Side by side, Vocalteen girls dance to the songs of Disney's "Aladdin." The Vocalteens went on many field trips throughout the year, performing at various nursing homes, the Radisson and several banquets.

Singing "Home" from the Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast," Sophomore Nicole Hatch performs at her last MHS choir concert. Hatch will be moving to Germany with her family next year.



In a tiny cluster, Sophomores Pamela Agors, Kathrine Harold and Debra Harstead and Junior Whitney Griggs echo their voices in the choir concert. Velveteens is an all-girl show choir, and many of the girls agreed that they made new friends.

'He (Mr. Emig) treats you as a friend as well as a student.'

While the Choralteen boys tell "A Whale of a Tale," the Choralteen girls listen. Many choir members agreed that "The Musical World of Walt Disney" was one of their favorite concerts. Senior Trine Ekesen said, "This was my first choir concert, and it was nice to see how everything worked together. It had some of my favorite songs, and the dances were fun."



During a slower song at the Christmas concert, several alto Velveteens sing in unison. Show choirs are not always known for just their dance steps. The show choir groups also sing many songs without choreography.

Entertaining the audience, Senior Jared Perkins boogies to the music. Perkins has been part of the MHS choir for four years and has been a Vocalteen for two years. Memorable moments for Perkins have been trips to Branson, Missouri, and Walt Disney World.

With four concerts in Reinhart Auditorium and several out-of-school performances, the advanced choirs of MHS were kept busy this school year. The students learned a variety of music in the fall, Christmas songs for the holiday season, songs from more classical periods in January and, for the last concert this school year, famous pieces from Walt Disney Pictures. In addition, the Vocalteen choir performed out of school during the year to spread the choir's name throughout the community.

The Vocalteens, Choralteens and Velveteens practiced after school twice a week throughout the year. Learning new music and choreography to go along with the songs, practices lasted anywhere from one to three hours. Choir members said that time flew by because of the great people they had the privilege of working with.

Sophomore Debra Harstead said that she enjoyed all the time spent with her fellow classmates.

"We get close to each other while participating and learned different things about one another," said Harstead.

The majority of the students involved have been singing all their lives. Many of them started in church and decided to expand their singing horizons with the help of the school system.

The choir members enjoyed each other's company and participating in something that has been a part of their lives for so long, but they said that all the fun would be in vain without the leadership of choir director Mr. Roger Emig.

Sophomore Taylor Madison said, "He's fun. It's a different bond with him because he gets to know you on a different level. He treats you as a friend as well as a student."

Show choirs entertain

Music makes spring break magical

While many kids were off bathing in the sun and sleeping in every day over spring break, a select few from Merrillville's music programs spent their week off performing music and relaxing with their classmates. The Merrillville Band spent the week in the Bahamas while Merrillville's Choraleens went down to Orlando, Fla to visit the many parks of Walt Disney World. The Band didn't perform at all over break, but saw many sights. They went to parts of Florida and later took a cruise ship to Grand Bahama Island. Sophomore Joshua Phillips, a trumpet player with the Symphonic Band, said the part that was most fun was "when we got to go on the beach and swim at the resort."

Freshman Vince Marquez also thought that swimming on the beach was enjoyable.

Marquez said, "The beaches were fun because of the swimming and the coral reefs."

The MHS Choir, on the other hand, performed twice, once in front of judges for a competition and the other on stage at Disney's Epcot Park. Junior Alexis Gedda, a member of Choraleens, said that performing in Florida was a little different from performing in Reinhart Auditorium.

"We were outside, so it was much hotter and everyone got up from where they were sitting and kept moving around," said Gedda.

Other students also noticed the heat during their performances. Sophomore Ian Hernandez said that "performing in 80 degree weather in tuxs" stands out in his mind the most about his trip with the choir.

In the Bahamas or at Walt Disney World, students involved in music at MHS seemed to have enjoyed their temporary vacation away from their regular lives as students.

As band members Juniors James Gedda and Kendall Sharp, Senior Allana Fleck and Junior Jackie Nason stop to take a group picture, they begin to spend their first day in Universal Studios. Fleck believed the best part of the trip was "the free time, sitting on the beach and being able to go snorkeling."

Junior Kendall Sharp and Senior Scott Stevens enjoy eating dinner at Viva Wyndham Fortuna Beach resort in the Bahamas. During this spring trip, band members traveled to both the Bahamas and Florida and went on a day cruise on Discovery Cruise Line.



Talking amongst themselves, band members prepare to leave for Universal Studios Islands of Adventures park in Orlando, Florida.

Sophomore band member Jackie Nason said the trip "was very fun and awesome. We did a lot of traveling."

As they pose in front of the All Star Movies Resort at Disney World in Florida, choir members become a part of the "101 Dalmatian" theme. Senior member Trine Eskesen said she had a good experience in Disney World. "It was so much fun being with my friends. I was happy to be there and have fun," said Eskesen.

"it was an awesome experience to be there..."



While walking around the amusement park, Junior Matthew Douglas and Senior Daniel Nieman II stop with Disney characters to pose for the camera. Pondering back on the choir trip, Nieman said, "It was an awesome experience to be there."



Surrounding a statue of Goofy, choir members spend their day at Magic Kingdom amusement park. The spring trip is the only out-of-state trip the choir goes on every year. Senior choir member Lindsey Trock commented, "Goofy is my favorite character, and we thought the statue of Goofy was pretty sweet."

'I like to dance and to entertain.'

Whether they are singing, dancing, playing an instrument or reciting poetry, students get the opportunity every year to show off their talents in The Revue. The Revue is the biggest fundraiser for the MHS Dramatic Society, and the 2006 Revue proved no different.

To "spice" the program up a little bit, Mrs. Beverley Seaver decided to have different acts for different nights so students would have the opportunity to see more acts and an entirely different program each night they came. Each year, the show features a variety of acts that appeals to almost every member of the audience.

Junior Kenneth Polezoes, who went Wednesday night, said he enjoyed Senior Pedro Torres's performance the most.

"I liked Pedro the best, because he kept you interested the entire act," said Polezoes.

The audience sees the acts in front of them, but does not realize the work that goes into making the performances run smoothly. Sophomore

Cody Stewart, who juggled to AC/DC's "Thunderstruck," said that he prepared for about a month before the show. In addition to performers, the show consisted of emcees that introduced the acts and "techies" who worked behind the scenes.

Sophomore Alexandra McLaughlin was an emcee for The Revue and she said that she felt a little nervous in front of such a large audience.

"It's not really intimidating, but when they start making fun of you, it can be a little bit," said McLaughlin. Junior Sireenna Blas, who worked as a "techie," said there was a lot of confusion backstage.

"People don't know what to do or where to go, so I direct them around," said Blas.

Although disappointed with the crowd's reaction and etiquette during the two nights, Mrs. Seaver was pleased with the large numbers who came out to see the show.

"We had over 1,000 kids between the 2 nights. The quantity was what I was hoping for," said Mrs. Seaver. Whether or not the show continues at MHS next year, the '06 Revue proved to be interesting for both the crowd and those who were involved.

Rocking to Blink 182's song "Going Away to College," Sophomore Joshua Crayne on bass, Freshman Tavon Cunningham on drums and Sophomore Eric Heidbreder on guitar and vocals perform at The Revue. Crayne said he was asked to be in the group to fill in for their bass player. "I learned the song in a day," said Crayne.

Three friends, Seniors Denise Coleman, Freshman Markella Papamihalakis and Senior Kristina Kralimenos dance to the song "My Number One" by Helena Paparizou. Papamihalakis said the group "wanted to do something because we've been friends for a long time."



The AC/DC song "Thunderstruck" sets the pace for Sophomore Cody Stewart as he juggles three balls during The Revue. "Mrs. (Beverley) Seaver asked me to juggle, and I said okay," said Stewart.

Showing off talent

Dancing to a mix of songs, Senior Pedro Torres performs in The Revue. "I like to dance and to entertain," Torres said. Torres said Mrs. Beverley Seaver, director of The Revue, "does a good job" organizing the show.



"No one has ever seen me dance and I wanted to bring something new (to The Revue)," said Sophomore Julie Stelzer. Stelzer performed a ballet to Fall Out Boy's song "Dance, Dance" in this year's Revue that she said took her a couple of months to prepare. Stelzer said she is involved with a ballet company that performs local shows, some at the Star Theatre.



As Senior Courtney Miller sings a song from "Wicked," Junior Jaclyn Boskamp watches her perform. Miller said, "I did it (The Revue) last year, and it was a lot of fun."

"I've been doing this in front of people for a long time," Senior Rochelle Waxton said about her rapping career. At The Revue, Waxton performed her song "By the End of the Road," which is about how a girl feels after being cheated on.

While remembering the past, June, portrayed by Sophomore Alexandra McLaughlin, recites a monologue. McLaughlin, who started acting in middle school, believes opening night went well. Her favorite part of the play was "all the make-up and getting to know the people better."

During a more serious scene, Henry T. Scott, played by Freshman Anthony Barns, tells his soon to be grandson Jesse Williams, portrayed by Senior Joey Mireles, about his life story. "Every role I've always had was comedic," said Mireles.

"This was my first chance to take on a serious role."



While talking about how their father committed suicide, April Williams, played by Junior Michelle Deming, looks on as Grace Turner, portrayed by Senior Sharfetta King, smokes a cigarette. Deming was involved in other plays before taking on this role. Deming said she believed the overall audience turnout for opening night was good. "I think all the people enjoyed it," said Deming.

Expressing her emotions, May Crawford, played by Senior Courtney Miller, complains about how people in society act. In order to prepare for her role, Miller practiced hunching over and taking smaller steps. Miller liked the "overall message" the play had of bringing different generations together.

While talking to his mother about a memory of the past, Pete, portrayed by Senior Daniel Nieman II, is "canoodled" by his assistant dancers, Seniors Holly Floyd and Niki Kraska. "Practices were long," said Floyd, "but (the play) was fun."

Elderly give a grand performance

The 2006 spring play, "He Held Me Grand," examined the history of the Williams family over a period of 100 years.

"It's a very new play. It was first presented in the year 2002. When I first saw it, I thought it was a very acceptable play because it dealt with parents, loved ones and grandparents, and we all have that," said Mrs. Beverly Seaver, Director of the Dramatic Society.

The play was about the elderly, and students had to grasp the concept of getting into older characters to play their roles.

"I played the role of a 93-year old man. The walking and speaking was the most difficult part," said Junior Dwayne Johnson.

Senior Daniel Nieman II, who played the role of a 78-year old man said, "To try to be old and to stay in character was hard."

Some members of the cast said they had no problem, however, relating to their characters.

"I played the part of June, the youngest of three sisters. June was also the wildest of the sisters, and I relate to this part because I'm the wildest in my family," Sophomore Alexandra McLaughlin said.

"I sing and dance in choir, and I had to do the same in the play, so it wasn't hard for me at all," Senior Holly Floyd said.

"I related well to my character because when I was younger, I spent a lot of time with my grandparents, and I still do," said Nieman.

Some of the cast admitted to having problems with their costumes, while some of them thought the costuming helped establish their characters.

"I was an 80-year-old lady," Senior Courtney Miller noted. "I had to wear a wig, and that was one of the hardest parts because it was so uncomfortable." "Costumes help your character. You relate more to your character by wearing costumes," she added.

"For this play, we had a very large cast," Mrs. Seaver said. "The only problem we had was to remind the students that they are not teenagers, that they are old. Otherwise, everything went really well."



In one scene, Junior Sireenna Blas and Sophomores Jessica Myren and Ryan Sandefur recite the names of those who served in the war. Next year, these students will be left with the job of filling in the leading positions left by seniors.

Seated in the control booth, Junior Tiffany Begala, a techie, waits for sound cues. Techies in a play are involved in monitoring sound and lighting effects, as well as helping change scenery.

'To try to be old and to stay in character was hard.'

Symphonic Band

Front Row: Jacob Zerde, Ben Pankiewicz, David Lopez, Justin White, DeAndre Nwannunu; Second Row: Cara Zimmerman, Desree' Bolden, Linnise Dixon, Anissa Lafitte, Dale VanVleet, Zinzi Williams, Hannah Day; Third Row: Laurie Hawkins, Aureil Mabone, Victor Benitez, Brittany Williams, Kendall Sharp, Wesley Young, Ernest Lane, Jonathan Harbin; Fourth Row: Michael Gough, Vanessa Powers, Marquan Love, John Thomas Graun, Nicole Jones, Carrie Sullivan, John Goosby III, Michele Zerde, Kyle Shockey; Back Row: Jeremy Zeilenga, Roberto Canales, Joshua Phillips, Michael Martin, Joshua Williams, Daniel Caruana, Keenan Stevenson, Charles Buck



Wind Ensemble

Front Row: Jamie Sieb, Brittni Braddock, Letitia Bella, Jacqueline Bella, Rebecca VanVleet, Courtney Crenshaw; Second Row: Sarah Wolf, Jasmine Henderson, Alayna Bella, Allana Fleck, Danielle Kacmar, Geoffrey Sperling, Aimee Ortega, Amanda Powers, Mary Hawkins; Third Row: James Gedda, Zachary Sperling, Michael Rivera, Benjamin Tapper, Brian Morrow, Jennifer Weger, Jaclyn Nason, Byronn Turner II; Fourth Row: Neven Holland, D'Andre Spears, Nicholas Pecenica, Michael Fisch II, Robert Martin, Daniel Sparks, Emmanuel Turner; Fifth Row: Donnie Whittemore, Samuel Yacko, David Lopez, Jafar Abdul-Hafiz, Jacob Zerde, Anastasios Kratinemos, Eric Heidbreder



Freshman Band

Front Row: Ashley Haney, Katherine Sadurial, Christine Peden, Niesha Thomas, Samantha Johnson; Second Row: Joseph Abad, Edwin Smith, David Freeman, Lareta Assibey-Mensah, Spring Stewart, Latasha Taylor, Jasmine Woods; Third Row: Sanam El-Quesny, Ryan Roddy, Kelley Hunter, Jennifer Tucker, Eric Terry, Vince Marquez, Darius Richmond, Michelle Ambrose; Fourth Row: Mark Campbell, Joshua Stackler, Desmond Jones, Taylor Douglas, Ta'Shal Nelson, Teaira Brown, Matthew Mayo; Back Row: Janaka Washington, Cecil Frink, Dwayne Wright, Elijah Samuels, Lance Robinson, Robert McKee, Tavon Cunningham



Intermediate Orchestra

Front Row: Cassandra Garcia-Brignoni, Elizabeth Baumann, Karrean Allen, Chantre Cade, Candace Pearson; Second Row: Amanda Gonzales, Laura Moreno, Michelle Myers, Evelyn Irak, Michelle Ross, Alexandra McLaughlin, Caitlyn Spires, Kelly Albright; Third Row: Stephen Camiello, Ashley Wallace, Pedro Lara, Michael Chunilla, Fanny Garcia, Claudia Ponce, Gregory Phillips; Fourth Row: LeTia Cittil, Chantal DeJesus, Cova Boender, Ian Jones; Back Row: Wyatt Perkins, Cody Niles, Kenny Albee, Blake Willis, Nicholas Wolak, Alexander Perez, Mr. John Bradford

Advanced Orchestra

Front row: Desiree Walker, Megan Gunn, Ebony Holly, Melissa Rivera, Elizabeth Bandy; Second Row: Jacqueline Miller, Irene Lopez, Shelley Lohr, Angelique Gruchmal, Susanne Youngren, Irene Tinoco, Nina Lopez, Jessica Parker; Third Row: Nathaniel Ortega, Cherelle Dunn, Rachel SamMiguel, Megan Sweeney, Krysten Casey, Angela East, Emmalee Troupos, Sarah Yacko, Seth Binder; Fourth Row: Steven Ruschak, Trevor Brown, Courtney Nzeta, Courtney Weldon, Kristen Hoyles, Matthew Kochever, Kimberly Nason; Back Row: Brian Albee, Zachary Banks, Jacob Kapitan, Natalie Bryson, Quinn Roberts, Joshua Crayne, Mr. John Bradford

Theatre Company

Front Row: Tiffany Begala, Michelle Denning, Jaclyn Boskamp, Alexandra McLaughlin, Megan Lee, Nikki Kraska; Second Row: Ashley Woods, Marissa Kendrick, Sharletta King, Sireenna Blas, Caitlyn deCourcy, Courtney Bargfeldt, Denise Coleman, Amanda Spudic; Third Row: Trina Eskesen, Markella Papmihalakis, Caitlyn Spires, Joseph Mireles, Courtney Miller, Michelle Ambrose, Clarissa Ehlers; Fourth Row: Sherman Daniels III, Kiara Hagan, Whitney Griggs, Brian Pucher, Elizabeth Martin, Mrs. Beverley Seaver; Back Row: Daniel Nieman, Joshua Carter, Pamela Johnson, Ryan Sandefur, Jessica Myren, Anthony Barnes, Dwayne Johnson

Handbell Choir

Front Row: Amirah Butler, Hannah Watkins, Danielle Metlovski, Britney Maddox-Lee, Despina Lozevski; Second Row: Angie Rousis, Chiara Clanton, Kamary Nunn, Britney Curry; Third Row: Lindsey Hauber; Back Row: Briana Ursery, Theresa Rizo, Stephanie Donohue



Velveteens

Front Row: Pamela Agoris, Nicole Hatch, Charnel Forbes, Kiara Wills; Second Row: Kathrine Harold, Debra Harstad, Shyanneva Wiley, Krystie Reed, Whitney Griggs; Third Row: Sarah Richards, Shakira Bell, Kelsey Beshears, Brianna Jenkins; Back Row: Taylor Madison, Jessica Myren, Natasha Bailey



Concert Choir

Front Row: Vanessa Sadural, Desiree Upshaw, Vanessa Alexander, Kiana Pearson, Renee Schmellmeyer; Second Row: Gabrielle Briscoe, Tramel Davis, Anthony Wright, Daven Walker, Aaron Curtis, Lee Dixon III, Sheryl Dillon; Third Row: Paula Ketchem, Brianna Vranikoski, Anthony Hillsman, Charles Blanchard, Michael Sweet, Garry Morrow, Caitlin Fenik, Samantha Kaiser, Fourth Row: Heather Walker, Cecilia Rivera, Shakeira Soto, Ryan Bishop, Kyle Johnson, Keith Pavlish, Anthony Barnes, Brandi Griffin, DaShante Smith, Christina Kratimenos; Back Row: Norma Salis, Chasity Burns, Tianna Ceaser, Christopher Logan, Kenneth Smith, Patrick Geeze, Robert Melby, Crystallyn Roy, Amber Wilson



Choralteens



Front Row: Cassandra Adler, Stephanie Matson, Susan Ware, Alexis Gedda, Sheena Mitchell; Second Row: Arielle Anderson, Crystal White, Ashley Elser, Tamisha Brown; Third Row: Brandy Dieterle, Courtney Miller, Dana Sylva, Santa Hunter, Paige Patterson; Back Row: Donald Toth, Joshua Holcomb, Michael Cameron, Jared Perkins



Front Row: Brittany Jones, Michelle Denning, Trine Eskesen, Lindsey Trock, Pamela Johnson; Second Row: Kimberly Barnes, Ashley Amey, Cody Stewart, Keegan Robinson, Jaclyn Boskamp, Megan Lee; Third Row: Katherine Kaplar, Daniel Nieman II, James Rowe III, Christopher Burke, Holly Floyd; Back Row: Holly Cooper, Matthew Douglas, Charles Pennington, Marcus Patikas, Dwayne Johnson, Niki Kraska



Varsity Choir

Front Row: Sabrina Ramor, Kelsie Pepper, Courtney Bargfeldt, Sarah Polak, Megan White, Joselyn Seafie, Amesha Smith, Ashlyn Taylor, Myleesa Gaston; Second Row: Kayla Wszolek, Caitlyn Kotul, Mandy Weis, Kelly Tarr, Kirsten Koharchik, Kayla Hahney, Kristin Alvarez, Ashley Sokolowski; Third Row: Kandace Greene, Elisha Alamillo, Leah Floyd, Kaci Spenser, Nadia Millard, Katrina Underhill, Aashani Morris, Tiffany Headley; Back Row: Bianca Earl, Tyawni Stafford, Mallory Lancaster, Kendall Bonick, Chanae Robinson, Rebecca Neville, Markella Papamihalakis, J'nal Dickerson



Vocalteens

Front Row: Donald Toth, Courtney Miller, Cassandra Adler, Jared Perkins, Brittany Jones, James Rowe III; Second Row: Keegan Robinson, Megan Lee, Ashley Amey, Joshua Holcomb; Third Row: Matthew Douglas, Holly Floyd, Christopher Burke, Lindsey Trock, Jaclyn Boskamp, Daniel Nieman II; Back Row: Marcus Patikas, Katherine Kaplar, Niki Kraska, Dwayne Johnson

"Once a Pirate always a Pirate." Gregg Popovich coined that phrase when he returned to Merrillville wearing his varsity letterman's jacket from his graduation year, 1966. Popovich's jersey, number 21, was retired during a varsity basketball game in December. Popovich now coaches the San Antonio Spurs, a professional basketball team.

Dedication and unity are two vital components of a team. Whether student athletes are at practice or in competition, working to be the best is always at the top their to-do list. Motivation comes from teammates who support each other throughout the season.

Teamwork is important because a team is only as good as its worst player. Teams work together to make sure everyone realizes his or her own goal. The support that members receive from each other pushes them to work harder and improve.

The pressure to be champions is the driving force that keeps teams motivated. The challenges they face throughout the season bring teammates together and help them perform to the best of their abilities.



As he kicks the ball back into the game, Junior Nome Damjanoski focuses on the next play. A varsity soccer team member since freshman year, Damjanoski said, "I play for the love of the game." Damjanoski also said he hopes to keep improving in order to get the soccer team noticed again.



Setting up for a shot, Junior Jamesha Harris concentrates to make sure she makes the basket. Harris said she plays basketball because it is a way for her to "relieve stress," and because it is something she is really good at. Harris is proud of her team for their record this year, but hopes to make it even better for her next and final season as a senior.



FOOTBALL

EC Central
Highland
Crown Point
Portage
Michigan City
LaPorte
Valparaiso
Lake Central
Chesterton

SECTIONALS

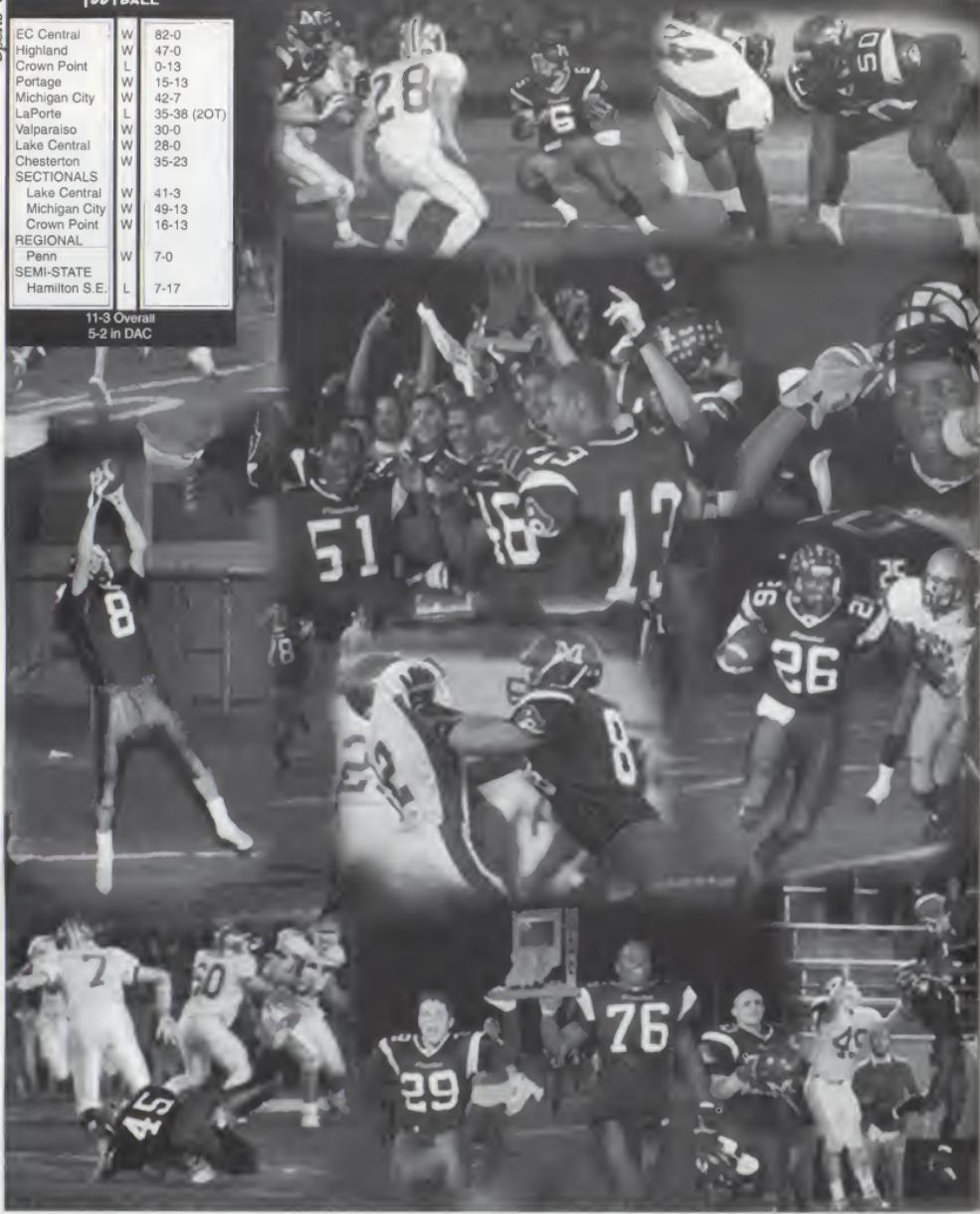
Lake Central
Michigan City
Crown Point

REGIONAL

Penn
SEMI-STATE
Hamilton S.E.

W	82-0
W	47-0
L	0-13
W	15-13
W	42-7
L	35-38 (2OT)
W	30-0
W	28-0
W	35-23
W	41-3
W	49-13
W	16-13
W	7-0
L	7-17

11-3 Overall
5-2 in DAC



From top left: Junior Eric Williams, Senior Randall Laster, Senior Anthony Curry, Senior Chad Dawson, Senior Beau McClendon, Junior Bradley Kurczynski, Seniors Brandon Jordan and Michael Padgett, Senior Colt Contreras, Junior Daniel Dwyer, Senior Vance Gidley, team celebration.



Staring down the opposing offensive line, Seniors Rayshon Richardson and Vance Gidley prepare for the upcoming play. The defense talks to each other and tries to decipher the offensive scheme. "Each time on the line is a different experience; and towards the end of the season it's more of an adrenaline rush," said Richardson.

Rushing down the field, Senior James Aldridge holds the ball high and tight to his chest. He relied heavily on his offensive line to give him a clear path to the end zone. "I just watch the players so I can react and get as far as possible," said Aldridge. He rushed a total of 1,433 yards this season. Aldridge has been accepted at the University of Notre Dame, where he plans on playing running back. He was the first football player in Notre Dame's history to enroll early.



FINISHING 'UNFINISHED BUSINESS'

The "Unfinished Business" from last year came closer to being finished with the Football Team winning sectional and regional titles.

Beating Crown Point for the sectional title was not only one of the biggest games in region history, but it was also the highlight for many people this year, including Seniors Beau McClendon and Vance Gidley. They said that they were pumped up because of the huge crowd, which exceeded 8000 fans, and the electrifying feeling in the air.

Beating Crown Point, the number two-ranked team in the state, was not enough for the Football Team. They pushed through

and defeated Penn, the number four-ranked team in the state, in the Class 5A Regional 1 Championship, thanks to a stellar performance by the defense.

"Our defense really stepped up and won that game for us. We have the best defense in the state," said Senior Michael Padgett.

Padgett said the team set a goal at the beginning of the season to leave a legacy. This was accomplished. "We were one of the best teams in Merrillville history and people will still be talking about us in 20 years," said Senior Deji McCarthy.

McClendon said that the big family atmosphere was the key to their success be-

cause most of the seniors looked at the other guys as brothers rather than teammates.

Gidley said they did everything from singing together to going to each others' houses to watch Prep Football Report, a ritual the night before every game.

"There's nothing like going out there with ten of your best friends and completely dominating the other team. I love those guys," said McCarthy.

"I just wish we could have gone all the way. But you can't look back wanting to change things. You should just be happy we all got to play together," said Gidley.

"It's never how you start. It's how you finish," said Coach Jeff Yelton.



As he searches for an open receiver, Senior Evan Parker picks apart the defense. "I just focus on what I have to do at that time," said Parker. As the quarterback for the Pirates, Parker threw a total of 1,629 yards and 16 touchdowns. He ran a total of 570 yards for 10 touchdowns this season.



With his eyes on the end zone, Senior Anthony Curry dodges past Albert Evans of Portage. Curry had 28 receptions for 570 yards this season. "I want to do whatever it takes to win," said Curry. Curry said his focus stays on catching the ball, first and foremost. The end zone is all he can see after that.



Batting down a pass, Senior Dexter Larimore leaps over Tim Vega of East Chicago. Larimore played both defense and offense throughout the season. "Dexter was a key player in stuffing the offensive line and freeing up our linebackers to make plays," said Senior Michael Padgett. Larimore will play for Ohio State.

VOLLEYBALL

Griffith	W	3-0
Lowell	L	3-0
LaPorte Turney		2 for 4
Andrean	W	3-0
Crown Point	W	3-1
Lake Central	L	3-1
Chesterton	L	3-2
Kankakee Valley Classic		2 for 4
Valparaiso	L	3-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Michigan City	L	3-0
Portage	W	3-1
Crown Point	W	3-2
Lake Central	L	3-0
Chesterton	L	3-2
Valparaiso	L	3-1
Terry White Invitational		1 for 3
LaPorte	L	3-0
Michigan City	L	3-0
Highland Invite		2 for 4
Portage	W	3-0
Plymouth	W	3-0
SECTIONALS		
Hobart	W	3-0
Valparaiso	L	3-1

15-13 Overall
4-10 In DAC



From top left: Senior Callie Lucas and Junior Lauren Hallenbeck, team huddle, Sophomore Ashley Contreras and Senior Stephanie Pavlish, Senior Erica Aloia, Sophomore Lisa Saberniak, Junior Chelsie Kelly, team celebration, Junior Lauren Hallenbeck and Senior Stephanie Pavlish, Senior Erica Aloia, Junior Jacqueline Miller and Senior Callie Lucas, Junior Chrissy Lobodinski, Senior Callie Lucas, Senior Erica Aloia and Junior Lauren Hallenbeck.



Reaching above the net, Juniors Shanna Kacher and Chelsie Kelly block the opposing team. Kacher and Kelly played Dunes Volleyball during the off-season in order to improve their skills. While Kacher enjoys hitting more than blocking, Kelly likes blocking more. "I love blocking," Kelly said, "I like seeing the other girls' faces after I block them."

As she dives onto the floor, Junior Lauren Hallenbeck gets the ball up. During the past season, Hallenbeck tied the school record with 2004 Graduate Tianna Coleman for the most digs in a single game. Hallenbeck also hit during the season and enjoyed the front row more than the back row because there was "more excitement in the front row."



DIGGING TOWARD IMPROVEMENT

The only word to sum up the 2005 Merrillville Volleyball Team is teamwork.

"Teamwork is how we got every single one of our wins. Everyone had to contribute," said Coach Tania Price.

During the season the girls worked on connecting and coming together as team. The team started during the summer with early morning workouts and open gyms to begin the pre-season. They had a team bonding experience with a trip to a team camp in Grand Valley, a completely new endeavor for the team.

"The day was really long but we had got tons of playing time in and got an early start to the season," said Senior Erica Aloia.

Then the girls participated in Merrillville's own traditional team camp.

The regular season started with try-outs.

"Try-outs were different this year with the girls having to condition outside. With

the weather being so hot we had to make sure everyone was hydrated and healthy," said Coach Price.

As the team started to play games, they realized what the biggest obstacle of the season would be: injuries.

"Injuries took a major toll on our team. Almost every player had to sit out at one time or another," said Senior Stephanie Pavlish. "I had to sit out and the hardest part is to watch your teammates be out there and know you cannot be out there with them."

With only two varsity starters not succumbing to injury at one point or another, this made all the girls step up into new roles or positions. Every girl on the varsity roster saw playing time. With a line-up that rotated continuously, the team saw many highs and lows.

"Both Chesterton games stick out in my

mind, because both went to five and both were extremely close. I think one of our best games was against second ranked Mishawaka because we really played as a team and gave them some competition," said Coach Price.

The team started post-season with all of their varsity starters.

"Going into sectionals we were really excited and prepared. We knew our goal and knew we had to work hard to reach it," said Aloia.

The team ended the season with a loss in the second round of sectionals. The season did not end up as they hoped, but they all felt it was still a success.

"It is not about the win/loss record but how we all felt. No one wanted it to end. And that made it a successful season, because we all enjoyed it so much," said Coach Price.



With her arms extended, Senior Stephanie Pavlish digs the ball. Pavlish played the libero position this year, which meant she could only play in the back row. This was the first year the IHSA approved the libero. "It took some time to adjust to the position, but I loved being able to be on the floor the entire time," Pavlish said.



In an attempt to perfect her technique, Senior Erica Aloia practices a back set before a game. Aloia has been a varsity player for her four years of high school. She was MVP during her junior and senior years and made the All-Conference team and Academic All-State team during her senior year. Despite her individual accomplishments, she knows that "none of this would have happened without my teammates."

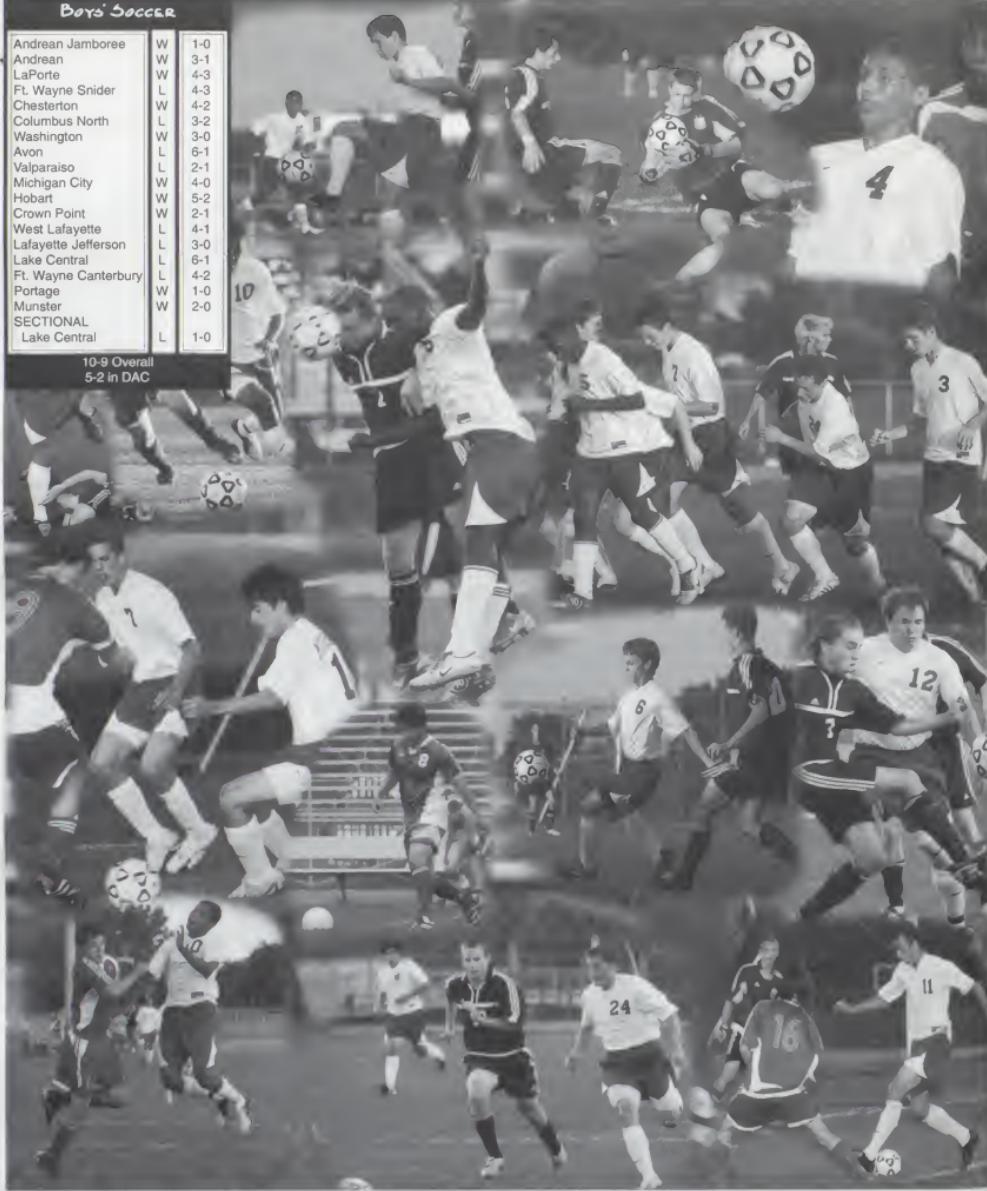


As she focuses on the ball, Senior Callie Lucas hits the ball over the net. Due to the team's multiple injuries, Lucas was forced to play outside hitter this season. Lucas actually viewed herself as more of a back row or defensive player. "I like back row," Lucas said, "It is always over looked, but it is just as important as the other positions."

Boys' Soccer

Andrean Jamboree	W	1-0
Andrean	W	3-1
LaPorte	W	4-3
Ft. Wayne Snider	L	4-3
Chesterton	W	4-2
Columbus North	L	3-2
Washington	W	3-0
Avon	L	6-1
Valparaiso	L	2-1
Michigan City	W	4-0
Hobart	W	5-2
Crown Point	W	2-1
West Lafayette	L	4-1
Lafayette Jefferson	L	3-0
Lake Central	L	6-1
Ft. Wayne Canterbury	L	4-2
Portage	W	1-0
Munster	W	2-0
SECTIONAL	L	1-0
Lake Central		

10-9 Overall
5-2 in DAC



From top left: Freshman Ryan Stokes, Junior Jeffrey Jelinek, Junior Javier Prieto, team, Senior Brian Albee, Junior Nome Damjanoski, Junior Richard Reddick and Senior Edwin Moreno, Senior Edward Barcenas, Senior Daniel Enghofer, Senior Akinjide Akinrinade, Senior Edwin Moreno.



With a slap of the hand, Coach Brian Past congratulates Junior Aleks Ristevski on a good play. "I tried my best to work through minor injuries to help out my team," said Ristevski. As a forward and midfielder, Ristevski had two goals and one assist.

While the rain pours down, Senior Edward Barcenas goes for a header against Joe Wirtz of Andrean at the Andrean jamboree. Barcenas said, "It's fun playing in the rain but it gets cold. You slide all over the place. It can get irritating." The Pirates defeated Andrean 1-0.



Boys' Soccer Team Shoots for the Goal

Preparation for the 2005 boys' soccer season began long before the team's opening match. The team could be found at summer conditionings where they ran and lifted weights to prepare for their season.

Coach Brian Past, who has coached soccer for three years at Benton Central and nine years at Merrillville High School, said that this year's team had high expectations. Their goals were to win sectionals and finish in the top half of the Duneland Athletic Conference.

Senior midfielder Mladen Suleski stated that another one of the team's goals was to "play hard, but play fair."

Senior all-around player Brian Albee

commented on the season. "We expected a lot coming into the season with the amount of talent we had," Albee said.

Coach Past said that the team faced a tough schedule this year, as eight of the teams they played were ranked in the top 20. The team finished third, with a record of 5-2 in the DAC. Coach Past believes that the match that the team played the best at this year was the 1-0 defeat over Portage that secured the team's third place finish in the DAC.

Senior captain Bryan Ruder said he thought this game showed the team's spirit.

"The team fought the whole game. If we would have lost, we would have placed

lower in the DAC. Once we got the first goal, we fought all of the second half to keep it," he said.

One of the positives of the season to Ruder was the extreme closeness of the team.

"We were a big family," Ruder said.

The team ended up finishing their season in the first round of sectionals with a 1-0 loss to Lake Central.

"With all the talent on the team, we should have gone farther," Suleski said.

Despite the team's outcome in sectionals, Coach Past said, "I was really proud of the way the guys played."



Dribbling the ball down the field, Sophomore Daniel Prentoski concentrates on nothing but the ball. Prentoski, the Pirates' midfielder, said that working as a team helped the successful season. "If we don't play as a team, we aren't going to win," he said.



As the Pirates' stopper and sweeper, Senior Bryan Ruder makes a goal kick across the field against Chesterton. Ruder said the hardest part of his position is "marking the other team's top forward and being able to balance offense and defense." The Pirates defeated Chesterton 4-2.

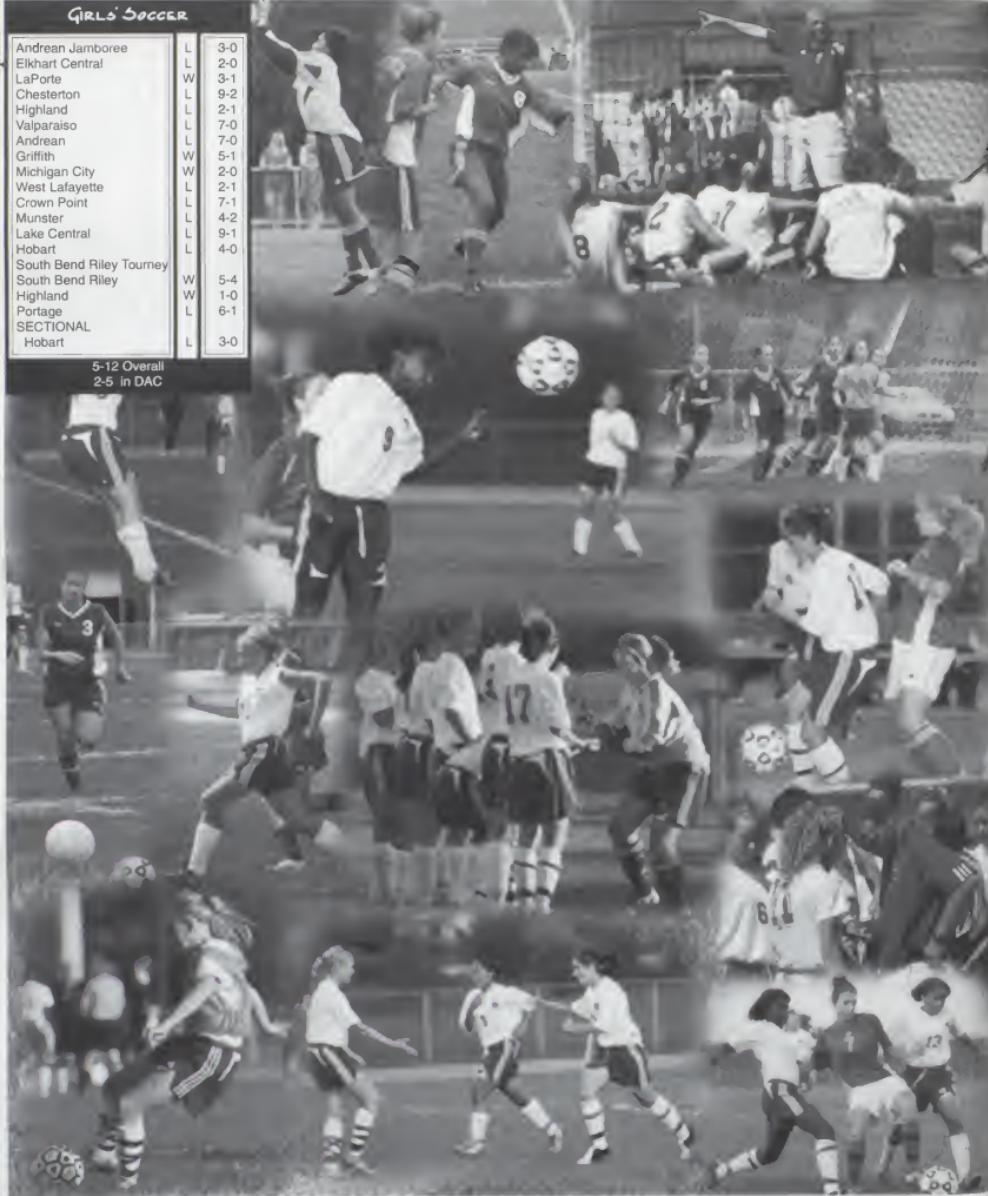


As he catches the ball, the Pirates' goalie, Junior Jeff Jelenik, stops the opponents from scoring. "I don't know how to play any other position. I have been playing goalie all my life," said Jelenik. He was named All-District goalie, as well as the All-State Honorable Mention for the 2005 season.

GIRLS' SOCCER

Andreas Jamboree	L	3-0
Erlkhart Central	L	2-0
LaPorte	W	3-1
Chesterton	L	9-2
Highland	L	2-1
Valparaiso	L	7-0
Andreas	L	7-0
Griffith	W	5-1
Michigan City	W	2-0
West Lafayette	L	2-1
Crown Point	L	7-1
Munster	L	4-2
Lake Central	L	9-1
Hobart	L	4-0
South Bend Riley Tourney	W	5-4
South Bend Riley	W	1-0
Highland	L	6-1
Portage	L	3-0
SECTIONAL		
Hobart		

5-12 Overall
2-5 in DAC



From top left: Junior Amber Barnes, Sophomore Karen Balko, Senior Sarah Vaughn, team halftime, team practice, Junior Jenna Baisden, team huddle, Junior Amber Barnes and Senior Sarah Vaughn, Sophomore Katie Balko, Senior Erica Richmond and Junior Kacey Loudermilk, Junior Kacey Loudermilk, Sophomore Brittney Manard, Senior Sarah Vaughn, Senior Magen Fassoth, team huddle.



Keeping a vigil eye on the ball, Junior Kacey Loudermilk runs to kick the ball down the field. She played midfield and forward positions. "I enjoy attacking other teams and being the one to rack up all the points" said Loudermilk.

With determination on her face, Junior Amber Barnes punts the ball with her head. She has enjoyed playing defender and occasional goalkeeper since the eighth grade. "I like playing goalkeeper. I am very hyper in the goal and I get to roll on the ground" said Barnes



GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM GOIN' FOR THE GOAL

With a total of 25 teammates, the girls' Soccer Team overcame many obstacles placed against them. The girls prepared throughout the summer with daily conditioning and team practices. Sophomore Katelynn Kora said that Coach Jeff Fairbairn worked the girls "hard in an attempt at a victorious season."

Junior Kacey Loudermilk said, "I was so proud to see all the girls step up and come to all of our practices."

This year was the first in the past ten years that one captain held the responsibility of leading the team. In previous years, two to four upperclassmen held the captain's position. Senior Sarah Vaughn, as captain this year, led the team to a "long-awaited" victory at the South Bend Riley Tournament.

"It has been a long time since we could walk away from that tournament with a trophy in our hands. We finally felt like a team," said Loudermilk.

As the season progressed, the girls said they continued "to bond more like sisters."

With a record of 5 and 11, sectionals quickly approached. The girls prepared six days a week in an attempt to overcome their sectional match, Hobart.

Eight girls stepped up and joined the varsity roster for the sectional game. The girls included: Freshman Michelle Warshall; Sophomores Despina Lozevski, Kendall Sharp, Katie Harold, Kaitlynn Kora and Debbie Harstad; Junior Andrea Warmon; and Senior Brittany Perry.

"The girls could have used a little more preparation and a lot more competitive-

ness to prevail over Hobart in sectionals," said Loudermilk.

With a score of 3-0, the Pirates lost their sectional game against Hobart, and their season came to an end.

Loudermilk was this year's top scorer with a total of 12 goals over a period of 17 games. Senior Alison Conquest was right behind her with four goals and five assists. Conquest, with 16 lifetime goals, has the leading record of all the seniors.

To keep the girls in touch with the soccer field during the off-season, they continue to run and work out on a regular basis.

"With the season over, we maintain a soccer mentality by training for the upcoming season. We want this one to be even more successful than the last," said Kora.



As players watch, Senior Sarah Vaughn (9) prepares to steal the ball from the opposing team, Andean High School. Vaughn enjoyed playing the position of left defense. "I don't mind playing the position that I play as long as I don't get someone who runs a lot," said Vaughn.



With her feet leaving the ground, Senior Erica Richmond attempts to pick up the ball. After playing soccer for three years, Richmond said, "It has been a lot of hard work, and this year the team worked together and did a lot of bonding which helped them out so much this year."

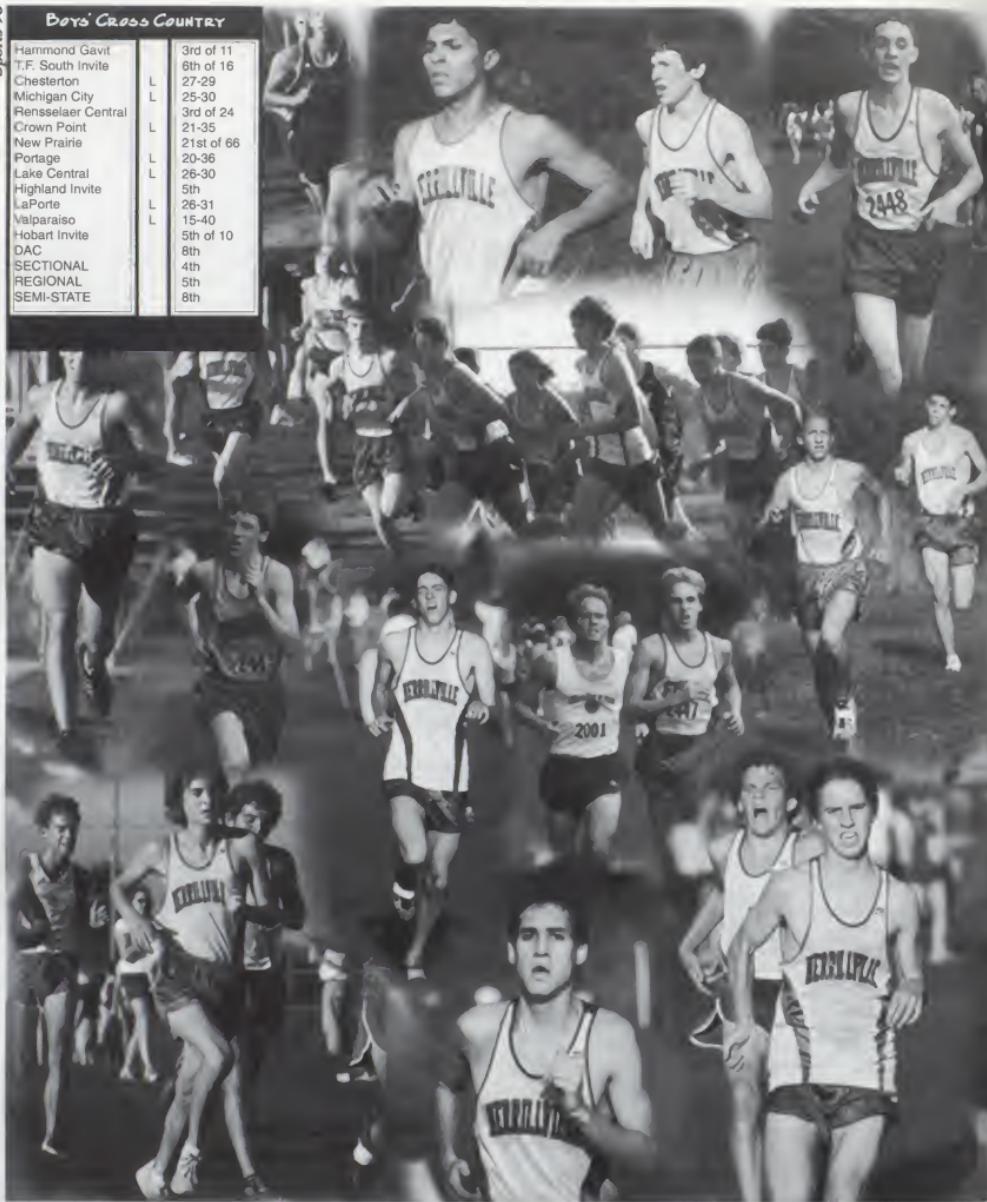


After kicking the ball, Senior Alison Conquest keeps an eye on her opponent. Conquest had experienced playing many positions on the field. Conquest said, "I enjoy the many positions that I play, and I play anywhere on the field I can play, except for goalie."

Boys' Cross Country

Hammond Gavit
T.F. South Invite
Chesterton
Michigan City
Rensselaer Central
Crown Point
New Prairie
Portage
Lake Central
Highland Invite
LaPorte
Valparaiso
Hobart Invite
DAC
SECTIONAL
REGIONAL
SEMI-STATE

L 3rd of 11
L 6th of 16
L 27-29
L 25-30
L 3rd of 24
L 21-35
L 21st of 66
L 20-36
L 26-30
L 5th
L 26-31
L 15-40
L 5th of 10
L 8th
L 4th
L 5th
L 8th



From top left: Senior Raymond Tinoco and Junior Matthew Bane, Freshman Jeremy Fleeger, Sophomore Corbin Massa and Junior Donald Bhe, Senior Raymond Duttweiler, Senior Kevin Wilson, Sophomore Seth Binder, Junior Matt Bane, team, Senior Justin Floyd, Sophomore Michael Gough.



Setting the pace for the rest of the runners, team leader Senior Justin Floyd works his way toward the state competition. "I ate healthy and worked hard every day to achieve my goals," Floyd said. He ran more than 70 miles per week to prepare himself for his races. All his effort paid off when Floyd placed 29th in the State Meet in Terre Haute.

Striding along the course, Senior Raymond Duttweiler strives to better his times. "When I run, all I think about is passing people and making sure I have good form," Duttweiler said. During the season, he carried around a battery, which he believed brought him good luck.



TEAM MAKES IT TO TWO STATES IN ONE SEASON

The Boys' Cross Country Team finished their season with an eighth place finish at semi-state and advanced an individual to state, Senior Justin Floyd.

For the past three years, advancing to semi-state or state has been the expectation of the team and they have succeeded at both goals this year.

Running between 25 and 70 miles a week, the team worked together to achieve their team and individual goals. Seniors Raymond Duttweiler, Kevin Wilson and Justin Floyd became leaders for their team.

"If the team didn't do well as a whole at a meet, I would tell everyone that we needed to step it up and I would also bring up our goals to motivate us," said Duttweiler.

For Wilson, his goals were to become one of the top runners of the team and to have a time close to 17 minutes. He achieved his goal with his best time being 17:21.

"I ran a lot of miles over the summer. I ran over 70 miles a week for several weeks," said Wilson.

As for Floyd, his main goal this year was to advance to state. He accomplished this

and became the 29th runner in the state. As one of the leaders of the team, Floyd said he led the team by example.

One of Coach Mike Hoffman's season goals was for each runner to improve his time. Coach Hoffman said he was pleased with this year's improvements.

"More runners were under 17 or 18 minutes compared to last year," said Coach Hoffman.

As a team with only 11 runners, they were a small group; however, team members said they shared a strong bond.

"We are like a small family," said Wilson.



Sprinting away from the starting line, the Pirates' Cross Country Team begins one of its grueling 5K races. "We are a small group, but a close group," said Senior Kevin Wilson. The Pirates used that team spirit and unity to propel themselves all the way to semi-state where they placed eighth.



Running with determination, Senior Kevin Wilson speeds along the course to keep ahead of the competition. "I put in a lot of miles in the summer to become one of the top runners on the team," said Wilson. Although not the fastest, Wilson had become one of the many leaders on the team.

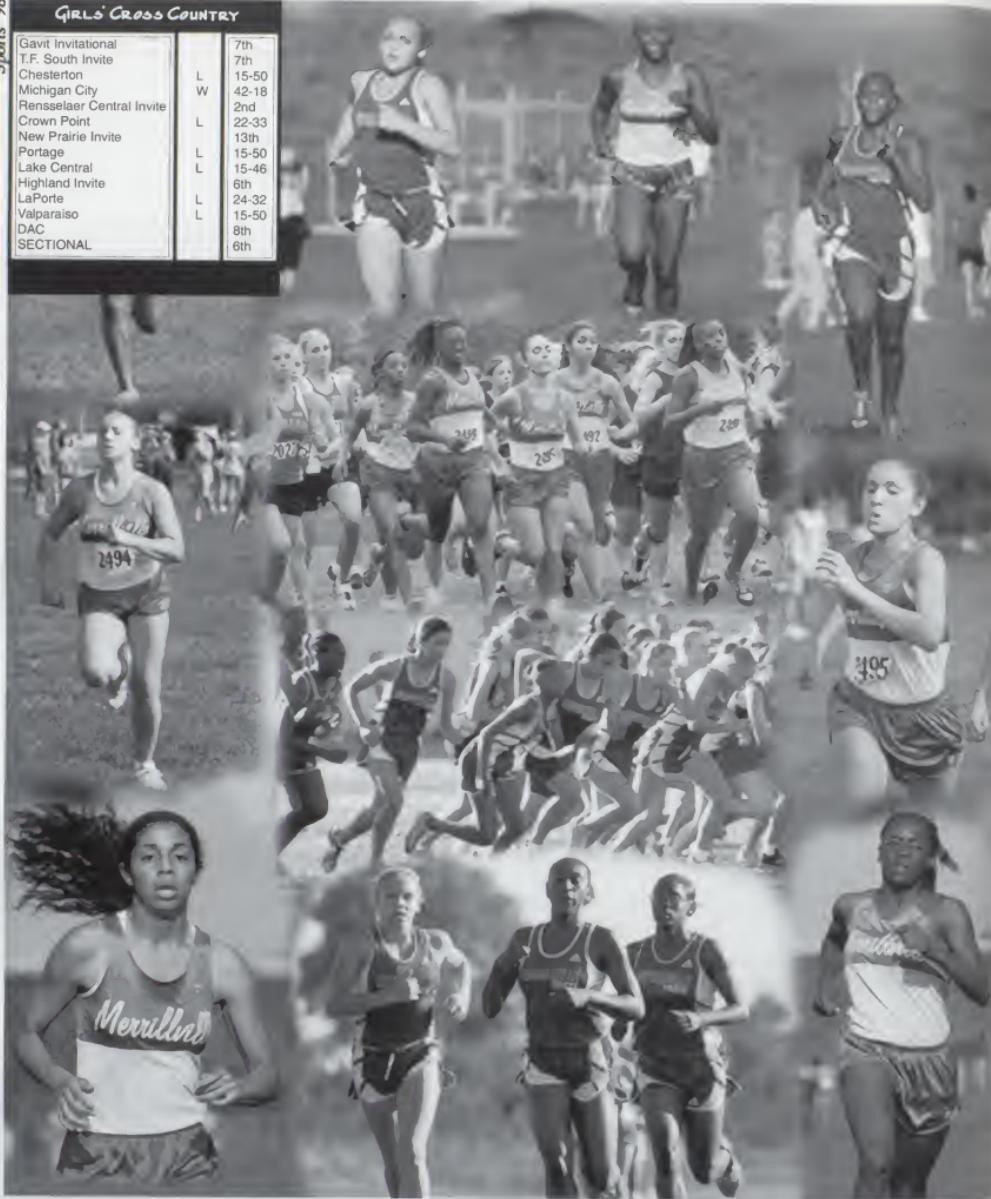


With a last burst of energy, Junior Matt Bane crosses the finish line. Bane had to earn his spot on the varsity team through many hours of hard work. "I stepped up when the team needed me," Bane said. Since he started running his sophomore year, he has worked to improve his form and lower his times.

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Gavit Invitational
T.F. South Invite
Chesterton
Michigan City
Rensselaer Central Invite
Crown Point
New Prairie Invite
Portage
Lake Central
Highland Invite
LaPorte
Valparaiso
DAC
SECTIONAL

L	7th
W	7th
L	15-50
L	42-18
L	2nd
L	22-33
L	13th
L	15-50
L	15-46
L	6th
L	24-32
L	15-50
	8th
	6th



From top left: Freshman Kate Tarr, Sophomore Brianna Ursery, Sophomore Brianna Ursery, Junior Maritsa Escalante, Junior Arielle Anderson, Freshman Kate Tarr, Sophomore Brianna Ursery and Junior Arielle Anderson, Sophomore Jessica Boursier, Freshman Kate Tarr, team.



Three-year Captain Senior Raquel Guerrero runs yet another race. Guerrero has been in cross country since fourth grade. She did not run a lot this season due to a car accident. Guerrero said, "When I could run, it wasn't great." She said the team is stronger this year and is "surprised (the team) didn't make it out of sectionals." As for sectionals next year, she said the girls need to "bring it that day."

Fighting through every step of the race, Junior Marista Escalante has her mind set to get her best time. One highlight of the season Escalante remembered is the "DAC meet because everyone on the team got their best times," she said. Escalante has been in cross country since she was in sixth grade and she also participates in swimming and track.



GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY RUNNIN' STRONG

The girls' Cross Country Team started vigorous conditioning in mid-June in the summer heat and the grueling practices did not end until October. The girls said the practices consisted of long runs of 4 to 6 miles and hard sprints on the track.

Despite the hot and humid weather, the girls had to pull through it and take what they were given. However, some girls felt that they performed better when it was cooler outside.

"I like running more in the morning, when it is cooler outside as opposed to the afternoon. I run a lot better in the morning," said Sophomore Tiarra Wright.

Senior Raquel Guerrero explained the differences between cross-country and other sports.

"When we get in trouble its not like we have to run because we do that anyways. Our coach makes us do pushups. Cross country also required a lot of endurance," she said.

During the season the team had seven losses and one win. To some girls, this record came as a shock. They believed there were some meets they should have won.

During the DAC conference invite, most girls had their personal best times. Freshman Kate Tarr was one of those girls to get a best time at the DAC invite. She placed 16th at sectionals.

Throughout the season, "The team really stuck together and showed how badly we wanted to win," said Sophomore Jessica Boursier.

Sophomore Chantrice Cade also agreed with Boursier, and said everyone did exceptionally well that day. However, despite the many personal bests, the team's season came to an end at sectionals.

"I expected us to go further than we did. Last year we went to regionals," said Junior Arielle Anderson.

Overall, the girls said it was a good season because they grew closer as friends and as a team. They said they all have plans of joining the Cross Country next year, and making it that much better.

Raquel Guerrero, who has been captain for the past three years, left the Cross Country Team with a tip of advice.

She said, "Just keep sticking together as one and the team will do just fine."



Stretching before a meet, the girls' Cross Country Team prepares for their race. During practice, the girls ran anywhere from a half hour to an hour and a half straight. "(Practice) is never easy. It takes endurance," said Sophomore Chantrice Cade. Kate Tarr, the only freshman, said practice was "hard because of the older girls" she ran with.



With their minds set on their best times, the team starts the race. This season did not go how Sophomore Jessica Boursier wanted. "There were a couple meets I expected us to win," she said. Sophomore Brianna Ursery was shocked the team did not advance out of sectionals. Tiarra Wright, a sophomore, said next year she wants "to make it out of sectionals into regionals and move forward."



Rarely thinking of anything other than the finish line, Junior Arielle Anderson sprints towards her goal. She said this year Crown Point was the team with the most competition. "We could have beat them," she said.

BOYS TENNIS

Highland	L	5-0
Noblesville Tourney		1-1
Portage	W	5-0
Michigan City	L	3-2
Chesterton	L	5-0
Lake Central	W	4-1
Warsaw		4th Place
Valparaiso	L	3-2
Crown Point	L	4-1
MHS Invitational		5th Place
Hobart	W	5-0
LaPorte	L	4-1
Lowell	L	3-2
Munster	L	4-1
SECTIONALS		
Hobart	W	5-0
Andrean	W	5-0
REGIONALS		
River Forest	W	5-0
LaPorte	L	4-1

6-9-1 Overall
2-5 in DAC



From top left: Junior Patrick Laorden, Junior Stoten Stofko, Junior Patrick Laorden, Junior Stoten Stofko, team huddle, Senior Drake Branda, Senior Jared Perkins, tennis huddle, Juniors Ashish Arshanapalli and Patrick Laorden, Freshman Stephen Carniello.



As he waits in anticipation, Senior Jared Perkins focuses on the ball. Perkins played at number one doubles the majority of the season with Junior Stoten Stofko. Having played tennis for eight years, Perkins said, "This was my best season."



Returning a serve, Senior Drake Branda hits the ball. Branda has been playing number one singles for the past two years at the varsity level. "People are going to need to step up," said Branda of the team for their success in the next season. Branda remained undecided whether he will play college tennis next year, but he is sure he will continue to play for fun.

Boys' Tennis

With day and night camps, summer practices and off-season play, the boys' Tennis Team spent a great deal of time preparing for their upcoming season.

Although their regular season was not as successful as they would have liked, the boys had a great deal of success. In the post-season, the team swept through sectionals with two 5-0 victories, and then advanced to the last round of regional competition.

In addition to the team's success, Senior Drake Branda made first team All-District and All-Conference. The number one doubles team of Senior Jared Perkins and

TEAM SERVING UP TO REGIONALS

Junior Stoten Stofko also accomplished that feat and in addition made honorable mention All-State.

Stofko said, "Even though my partner was gone for a couple matches and I had to play with other kids, I tried my best to adapt to their play, but when me and him (Perkins) played together we made up for each other's faults or weaknesses and played well."

"I personally thought my season was successful, but not nearly what I hoped for. All in all, it was a fun senior season," said Branda.

The team this year had the addition of a

foreign exchange student, Senior Christian Mathys, and several freshmen players. Coach Dave Zimmerman spent a lot of time juggling the lineup around to find the best combination.

Coach Zimmerman said that although the team's win-loss record was not as good as it was in previous seasons, the players all meshed together well and practices ran smoothly. The remaining players have strong desires to move further in the post-season by improving their game with tournament play and hard work over the months leading up to their next season.



As he reaches out to hit a volley, Junior Arshanapalli returns the ball to help his team win the Highland match. Arshanapalli played at number two doubles all season with various partners. "Ups and downs," said Arshanapalli about his season. "It was like a rollercoaster." Arshanapalli said he will work harder this off season than ever before to improve his game for next season.



Serving for an ace, Junior Stoten Stofko played at number one doubles with partner Senior Jared Perkins. "We all had all the fundamentals pretty much down," says Junior Stoten Stofko about his fellow teammates. Stofko and Perkins attribute their success to their teamwork.



Concentration fills Sophomore Wyatt Perkins, as he returns the volley hit by his opponent. In only his second year of varsity tennis, Perkins improved dramatically, said his coaches who awarded him with the Most Improved award at the end of the season. Perkins planned on conditioning in the post-season in hopes of playing number one singles next fall.

GIRLS' GOLF

DAC Invite	8th	535
Bishop Noll	L	254
Lowell Tournament	L	197
Lowell	L	232
North Judson		261
MHS		
Tri-Meet		
Highland	W	237
Wheeler	L	212
MHS		236
Valparaiso	L	156-250
Munster	L	198-255
Lake Central	L	236-183
Portage	L	180-272
LaPorte	L	172-240
Chesterton	L	183-240
Andrean	L	194-233
Michigan City Invite	14th	502
Hanover Central	L	209-244
Crown Point	L	179-232
SECTIONAL		489
1-13 Overall		
0-7 in DAC		

1-13 Overall
0-7 in DAC



From top left: Senior Ashley Washburn, Sophomore Jessica Myren, Senior Elizabeth Lashenik, Sophomore Jessica Myren, Senior Angela East, Sophomore Jessica Myren, Senior Angela East, Sophomore Jessica Myren, Senior Elizabeth Lashenik, and Senior Ashley Washburn.



State of mind is everything when approaching the course. Senior Elizabeth Lashenik focuses on her next hit of the match.



Surveying the course, Senior Ashley Washburn contemplates her next shot. As a three-year veteran, Washburn was comfortable playing on different courses.

GIRLS' GOLF WORKS ON COURSE OF IMPROVEMENT

With the loss of several key 2005 graduates such as Megan Frasca and Katie Coleman, the 2005 girls' Golf Team needed to make up for their losses this season.

The team began conditioning for their upcoming season during the summer. Practices began Monday through Friday at 6:30 a.m.

When school resumed, practices were held a couple hours after school, where the girls would work on improving their driving and putting.

The girls achieved Coach Richard Ohlenkamp's goals of improving their averages and overall golfing experiences.

"We made a lot of improvements," said Coach Ohlenkamp.

Senior Angela East also noticed improvements in the team throughout the season. "Well, the girls we had in the beginning were not quite as good as they could have been, but by the end of the year we all improved," she said.

Although they made improvements, the team faced difficulties this year. They had to find a suitable golf course to play at and make the golf schedule fit around the girls. Nonetheless, the girls were kept busy by a full schedule of matches.

Next year, the team must work on recruiting new members to fill in the spots of the three graduating seniors.

Sophomore Jessica Myren expressed her hopes and plans for next season with the loss of the team's seniors. "Hopefully, we'll focus on trying to improve, and we're trying to get more people. We plan on training during the winter," she said.

Still, golf has left good memories for its members who are graduating.

East said that she would miss "the team and just the fun we had."

Senior Ashley Washburn said, "It has been a good experience and I have learned a lot."



With her head down, Senior Elizabeth Lashenik concentrates on how she strikes the ball down the fairway. Lashenik played varsity for three years.



As her tee shot flies down the fairway, Senior Angela East watches the ball to see where it lands. "Seeing if the ball is close to the hole once it lands is the best part of a hit."

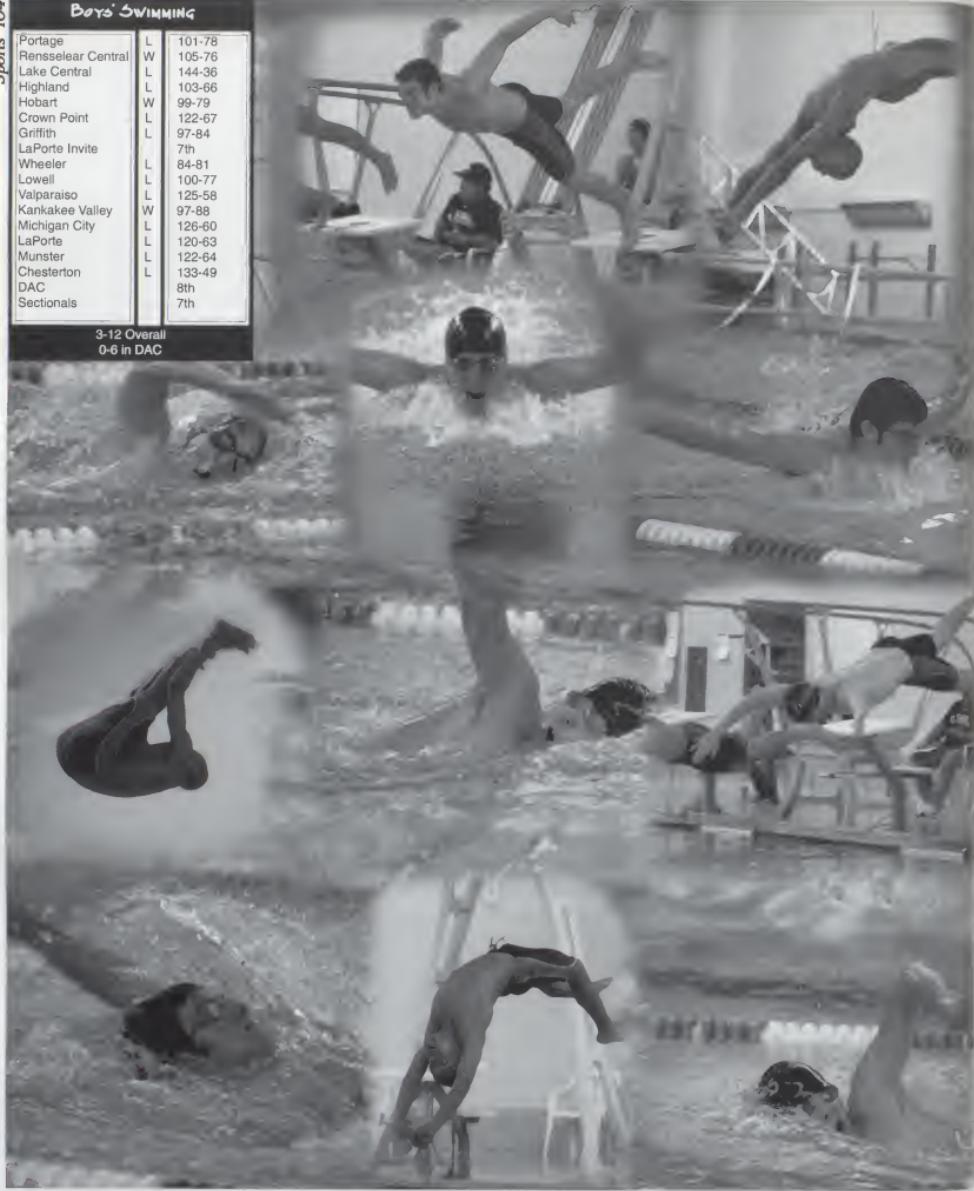


Standing on the tee can make some golfers nervous, but not Senior Ashley Washburn. Washburn said she is always prepared before she puts the ball. She was also one of the girls from last season returning to varsity.

Boys' SWIMMING

Portage	L	101-78
Rensselaer Central	W	105-76
Lake Central	L	144-36
Highland	L	103-66
Hobart	W	99-79
Crown Point	L	122-67
Griffith	L	97-84
LaPorte Invite		7th
Wheeler	L	84-81
Lowell	L	100-77
Valparaiso	L	125-58
Kankakee Valley	W	97-88
Michigan City	L	126-60
LaPorte	L	120-63
Munster	L	122-64
Chesterton	L	133-49
DAC		8th
Sectionals		7th

3-12 Overall
0-6 in DAC



From top left: Sophomore Shaquille Young, Senior Scott Stephen, Senior Dwight Harding, Senior Donnie Whittemore, Senior Scott Stephen, Senior Dwight Harding, Junior Stoten Stofko, Senior Donnie Whittemore, Senior Scott Stephen, Sophomore Shaquille Young and Junior Stoten Stofko.



Completing a double flip for one of his main dives, Sophomore Shaquille Young gets ready to hit the water. Young started as a swimmer in the early season, but a heart problem caused him to switch to diving. "My favorite part of each meet is standing on the diving board in dead silence knowing that all eyes are on me," Young said.

Getting set to take a dive, Senior Dwight Harding focuses on the "moment at hand." Harding began diving his senior year. "Since I hadn't played any other sports in high school, I wanted to my senior year," said Harding. Harding thought that diving would be easy but soon realized diving was difficult.



NEW COACH BRINGS NEW IMPROVEMENTS

With a new coach and a heavy practice schedule, the Boys' Swimming Team prepared early this year for their season.

"He works us hard individually and as a team," said Senior Scott Stephen regarding the new coach, Mr. Matt Pavlovich.

Coach Pavlovich graduated from Merrillville and was involved in "MAC" since he was six years of age. Pavlovich received a minor in aquatics from Ball State, which allowed him to become the high school coach. He used his swimming knowledge as a college graduate and a private alumnus to aid in his coaching techniques.

"I was really excited to improve the swimming program here at Merrillville," said Pavlovich.

A diet regime, along with intense pre-conditioning and practices, made sure that the team would be physically fit for the tough season. As part of their diet plan, they were encouraged to monitor what they ate. This included staying away from pop and junk food. The team was also encouraged to work out during their off time to improve their strength and endurance.

"We had two days over our breaks off of school. It was tiring but we all knew we had to pull through to do well during the season," said Stephen.

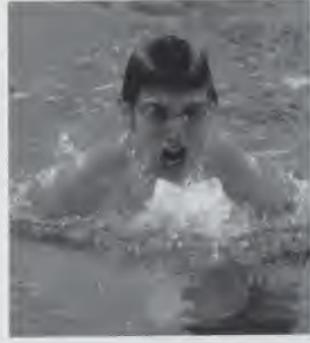
The swim team pulled through this season with only two seniors on the team. Donnie Whittemore and Stephen led the team with their experience from their previous swimming seasons.

"As a captain, Scott would have to be an important asset on our team this season," said Junior Stoten Stofko.

The team placed seventh out of twelfth at sectionals. Stofko and Stephen placed in the top six individually in their events. With teamwork, the team tripled their overall score from the past two years alone. The team viewed this as a great accomplishment considering they were not very large in size and were working with a new coach.



As he darts into a freestyle stroke, Junior Stoten Stofko tries to take a win home for his team. Stofko has been swimming for four years, has been on the swim team for three years and has been a captain for one year. "I look forward to returning next year because I'll be one of the oldest on the team," said Stofko.



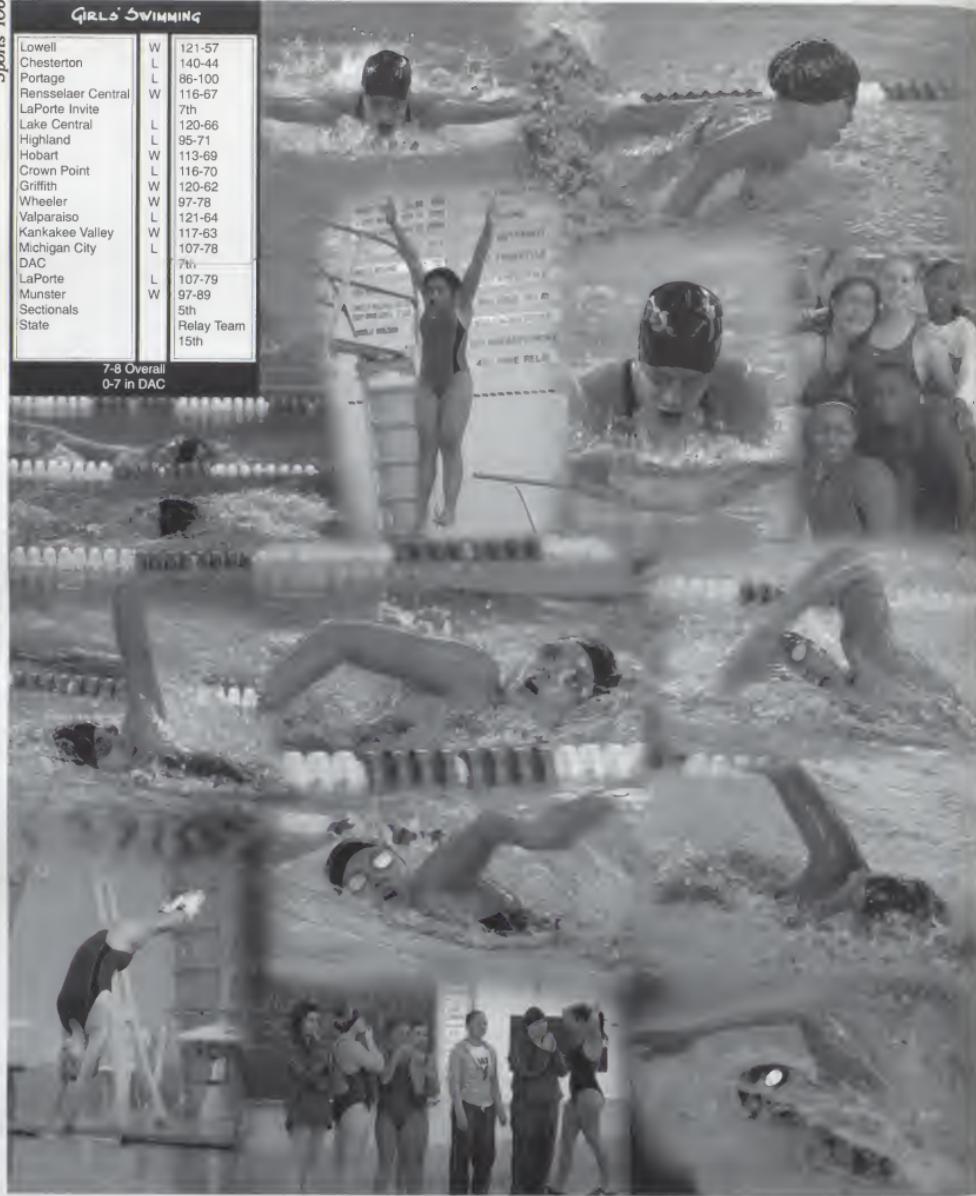
As the meet begins, Senior Scott Stephen performs the breaststroke motion. He has been a captain for three years. Stephen feels that the team has competed well this season but could have done better. "Our team could encourage each other during practice and at the meets," said Stephen.



Competing against others with the butterfly stroke, Senior and Co-Captain Donnie Whittemore tries to stay focused. "Being focused is one of the most important challenges in swimming. You have to stay focused at all times so that you can do your best," said Whittemore.

GIRLS SWIMMING

Lowell	W	121-57
Chesterton	L	140-44
Portage	L	86-100
Rensselaer Central	W	116-67
LaPorte Invite		7th
Lake Central	L	120-66
Highland	L	95-71
Hobart	W	113-69
Crown Point	L	116-70
Griffith	W	120-62
Wheeler	W	97-78
Valparaiso	L	121-64
Kankakee Valley	W	117-63
Michigan City	L	107-78
DAC		7th
LaPorte	L	107-79
Munster	W	97-89
Sectionals		5th
State		Relay Team 15th

7-8 Overall
0-7 in DAC

From top left: Sophomore Vanessa Alexander, Sophomore Katie Balko, Sophomore Karen Balko, Team, Sophomore Theresa Rizo, Sophomore Karen Balko, Team, Sophomore Karen Balko, Junior Ashlee Holland, Sophomore Kendall Sharp, Sophomore Vanessa Alexander, Junior Ashlee Holland, Senior Chasity Burns, Team and Senior Ashley Washburn.



To position herself for her dive, Sophomore Vanessa Alexander jumps on the diving board and gains balance. Diving since the fourth grade, Alexander knows the pressure involved in competitive diving. In order to relieve her stress before a meet she said, "I listen to music to calm down and get focused."

Focusing on completing her dive, Sophomore Theresa Rizo looks toward the water to enter with poise. Although injured during the season, Rizo competed in the Duneland Athletic Conference meet. Rizo said, "I only had two practices but I still made it to third place in the DAC meet. That was my best moment."



NEW COACH MAKES TEAM MORE 'DEDICATED'

With a new coaching staff in both swimming and diving, the girls' Swim Team had to adjust to new practices. This was Coach Matt Pavlovich's first year as a coach for Merrillville High School; however, Merrillville High School was not new to him. Coach Pavlovich had been part of Merrillville High School's Swim Team while he was a student at MHS. The girls on the Swim Team agreed that Coach Pavlovich helped improve this season from previous seasons.

Sophomore Karen Balko said that Coach Pavlovich "made more people dedicated and made more people come out for the team."

The girls' practices were slightly different from previous seasons. Attending morning practices was a requirement. Many girls on the team agreed that this contributed to the girl's overall improvement. This season the girls had a record of seven wins and eight losses.

Sophomore Sarah Yacko said, "The team improved immensely in a short period of time."

Beating the Munster Junior Varsity Swim Team was one of many highlights of the girls' swimming season.

Kendall Sharp, a sophomore, said that Munster has always been known as having an outstanding Swim Team, both at Junior Varsity and Varsity levels. To the girls on the Swim Team, it was a huge accomplishment.

To help prepare themselves before their meets, many of the girls would listen to music.

Senior Ashley Washburn, a swimmer, said, "I listen to music to help calm me down."

Swim captains, Sharp, Yacko and Junior Andrea Paulnitz, helped get the team pumped up before a meet by holding pep meetings, where the girls would cheer, and the captains would give short speeches to motivate the team.

Some of Coach Pavlovich's goals at the beginning of the season were to improve as a whole. He also wanted individuals to advance

to state this year. Not only did the girls improve this season, but also, several girls made it to State this year. Yacko, Balko, Sophomore Katie Balko and Junior Angela Cast all advanced to the state finals.

The girls were ranked 20th going in and ended up placing 15th. The girls set a new record while competing in the 400 Freestyle Relay at sectionals and later reset the record at state, dropping two seconds from their final time. What made Coach Pavlovich most proud of the girls, was the fact that three sophomores and one junior placed so well against seniors and juniors at the state level.

"It was a really big accomplishment," Coach Pavlovich said.

Coach Pavlovich said the team consisted of many freshman and sophomores, and the girls' Swim Team will improve even more each season.



Tightly pulling her arm to complete a stroke, Sophomore Karen Balko competes in the 200 yard individual medley. Balko has been swimming for nine years and said that a daily practice involved "stretching, kick sets, swim sets and sprints" in order to prepare the team for meets.



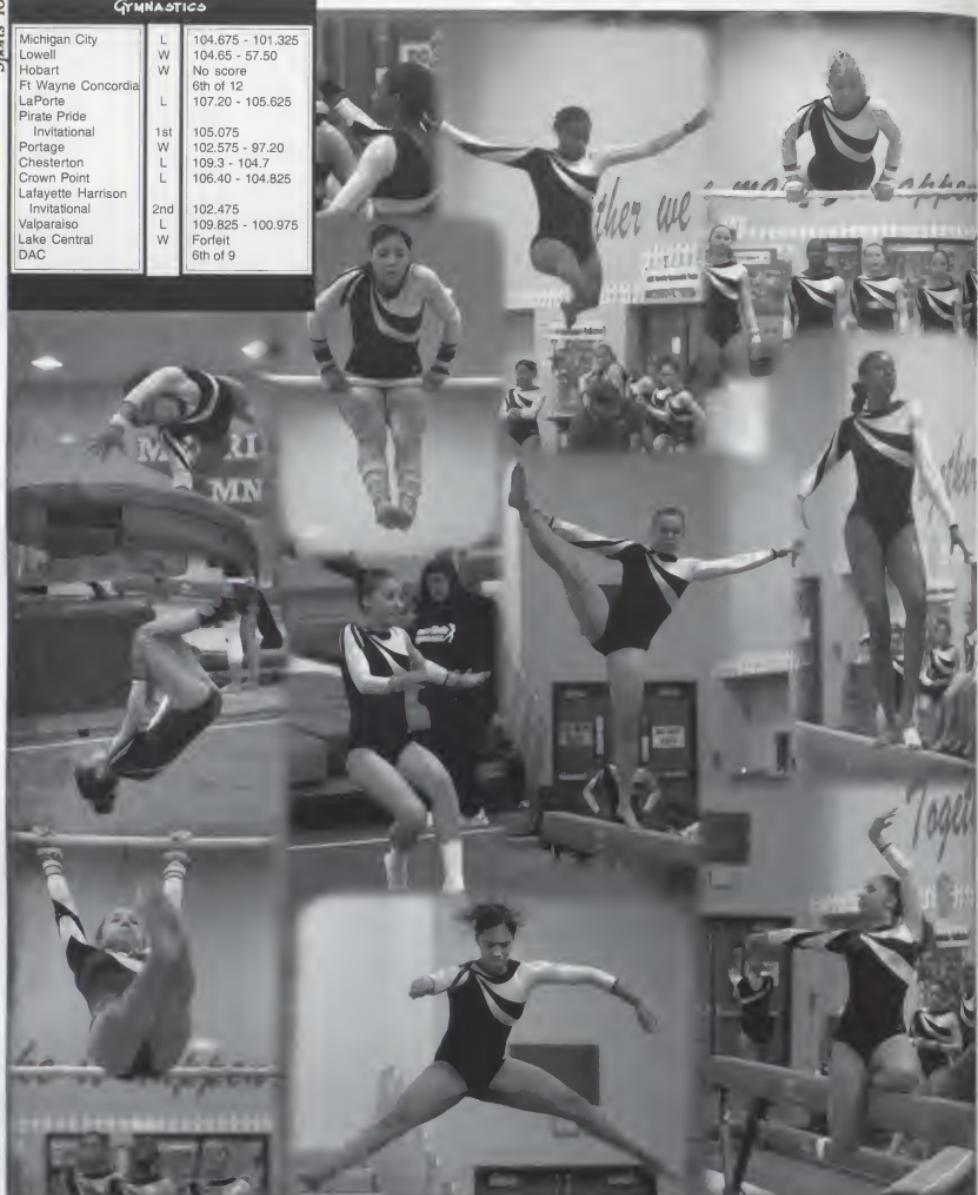
Quickly taking a breath, Junior Andrea Paulnitz focuses on completing her event. Swimming since age nine, Paulnitz realized that swimming is both an individual and team sport. She said, "As an individual, I have my own goals for sectionals, but as a team, we are all working to get our teammates to state."



As she races to the finish, Sophomore Katie Balko extends her arms for her final butterfly stroke. Balko said she felt that the team had become more focused this year probably due to the new coach. Balko said, "Coach Pavlovich helped us and made us more dedicated to the sport."

GYMNASTICS

Michigan City	L	104.675 - 101.325
Lowell	W	104.65 - 57.50
Hobart	W	No score
Ft Wayne Concordia		6th of 12
LaPorte	L	107.20 - 105.625
Pirate Pride Invitational	1st	105.075
Portage	W	102.575 - 97.20
Chesterton	L	109.3 - 104.7
Crown Point	L	106.40 - 104.825
Lafayette Harrison Invitational	2nd	102.475
Valparaiso	L	109.825 - 100.975
Lake Central	W	Forfeit
DAC		6th of 9



From top left: Senior Denise Coleman, Sophomore Dana Moriarty, Sophomore Simone Kinsey, Team, Team, Sophomore Daniela Rios, Sophomore Courtney Deming Freshmen Danielle Bly, Junior Maunya Jacobs, Sophomore Daniela Rios, Sophomore Simone Kinsey, Sophomore Courtney Deming



Balancing on the beam, Senior Denise Coleman prepares to perform her next move. After competing in gymnastics for five years, she described her last season as "a good season overall." Coleman added, "Everybody hit it on different days, so it went up and down."

On the floor, Sophomore Courtney Deming completes a back handspring. Deming competed in sectionals in her favorite event, bars. However, competing was not her favorite experience, which was watching everybody else. "It shows how much you can contribute and how easily you can get your spot taken," Deming said.



BALANCE, COORDINATION AND PRECISION

Gymnastics is not just about flexibility. Gymnastics is a sport that involves talent, balance and perseverance. These qualities are put to the test in the four events in gymnastics: vault, bars, beam and floor.

This year, the Gymnastics Team had ten team members. Their goal was to increase the difficulty level of all routines and also to increase the team score so they could advance to sectionals as a team unit.

"Although we managed to upgrade our routines and increase our scoring potential, we came short of advancing as a team. Our team members also finished the season reaching 64 personal goals," said Coach Diane Roberts.

"We are very pleased with this accomplishment," Coach Roberts added.

Most of the girls on the Gymnastics Team, such as Senior Denise Coleman, have practiced and performed since they were young.

"As a kid, I've always watched it on the Olympics. When I moved out here and found out that there was a Gymnastics Team, I decided to try out," said Coleman.

To the girls, the team was not just a team, but also a family.

"We are like family, but more like sisters," said Junior Maunya Jacobs.

Jacobs, this year's M.V.P. and top scorer,

made a name for herself in Northwest Indiana. After earning first place all-around in sectionals, Jacobs went on to place fifth in bars at the state competition.

"I feel good because I was the only girl to place," Jacobs said. "It's an honor to be the only person to represent Northern Indiana."

The team already has plans and goals for the upcoming season.

"Our plans for next season are the same as they are every season," said Coach Roberts. "To work hard in the off-season and in-season to do what's necessary to advance our team to the state tournament."



Focusing on doing a front support, Sophomore Daniels Rios competes on the uneven bars. Rios was satisfied with the season overall, but one of the best memories was the friendships with the other girls. "We are a very close team, and we are all best friends," Rios said.



With her eyes closed, junior Maunya Jacobs concentrates on doing the right trick on the beam. Jacobs said she worked hard in practice, especially towards her individual state competition. "I want to do gymnastics all the way through college and maybe even in the Olympics," Jacobs said.



As she completes a handspring, Sophomore Samone Kinsey performs on her favorite event, the vault. When competing, Kinsey said that she tried to think positive and focus on her mental choreography. "Mental choreography is writing down what we are going to do," Kinsey explained.

Penta

Munster	H	1st 71.623
	P	3rd 74.567
Portage	H	2nd 88.10
	P	3rd 86.27
Lake Central	H	3rd 75.27
	P	3rd 76.87
Central Reg.	H	3rd 85.10
	P	3rd 83.00
State	H	5th 86.48
	P	6th 84.02



From top left: Senior Leigh Nelson, Junior Gabriela Miller, Senior Brittny Hill, Senior Danielle Roberts, Freshman Jasmine Woods, Sophomore Kiara Wills, Sophomore Molly Delacruz, Senior Kayla Turner, Team, Team, Team



"I like performing, pleasing the crowd and giving it my all," said Senior Tiffany Gordon, who has been dancing since the second grade. Gordon said dancing "is an art and we put a lot of hard work into technique."

"I don't think when I dance. I just have fun. It's a stress reliever," said Senior Jarryn Robinson about dancing. Robinson said next year's team should "enjoy themselves and prepare to work very hard."



BEST FOOT FORWARD

For some, dancing for the poms team isn't just a sport, it is a way of life.

"I love dancing. All the girls love dancing. You can just see it in their expressions when they dance, the expression that they're so happy they just can't live without it," said Sophomore Lisa Sternberg.

"In other sports, having team unity and being unified is important, but with poms, it is crucial that everyone is the same. If this does not happen, then it throws the whole performance off," said Sternberg.

The poms team worked together to make sure everyone looks like one unit. In order to do this the girls did activities to help bring them together. Freshman Lorielle Johnson said that these activities helped a lot

and that the girls were very unified as a team.

Senior Kayla Turner thinks otherwise. "If I could have changed one thing, it would have been the team unity. We simply needed more of it."

The squad's season lasted for both fall and winter sports. However, the winter season is more hectic because the team has both basketball games and competition. They compete through IHSDTA (Indiana High School Dance Team Association) against other school's dance teams on the weekend, while trying to manage doing basketball games on Friday nights and sometimes during the week.

Junior Carla Emmett, who dances for two different dance teams, including Merrillville's pom team, had to

find a balance between the two.

"It got really hard at times. We would have practice every day for two to four hours a day, and then I would have to go practice with my other team."

Along with the craziness, Emmett also said that a huge obstacle they had to overcome was the fact that they lost some team members throughout the season. Even with all the problems in changing routines at last minute and girls leaving, the team still managed to come out in fifth place for their hip hop routine and sixth place in their pom routine at state this year.

Turner had one tip for the upcoming teams in future years. "Respect everyone on your team, try your hardest and do your best."



Smiling for the crown, Seniors Kayla Turner and Xiomara Vega wave their pom-poms during a basketball game. "Don't mess up. Keep counting. Smile. Have fun." These are the kinds of things Turner said runs through her mind while performing.



Five-year dancer Senior Tiffany Taylor performs at halftime during a basketball game. Taylor said one highlight of the season was "when we got first for hip-hop." Taylor advises next year's team to "take practice seriously and respect your coach and captains."



"Camp was really fun because we all got really close there," said Junior Yvette Guzman, who has been dancing for four years. Guzman said, "You feel the moves you're doing, and you don't see anybody else. You just dance."



From top left: Junior Brian Pucher, Junior Madeline Govert, Senior Kristin Brindley, Senior Holly Floyd, Senior Kamai Westbrooks, Senior Kristin Brindley, Sophomore Lindsey Hauber, Senior Ashley Thomas, Senior Cambria Hollingsworth, Junior Melissa Darang, Senior Holly Floyd, Senior Kamai Westbrooks, Freshman Christin Nacovski, Senior Ashley Thomas, Junior Melissa Darang, Senior Cambria Hollingsworth, Junior Madeline Govert, Freshman Kelly Tarr, Sophomore Jalysa King, Freshman Jennifer Cieslak, Team, Senior Holly Floyd, Senior Kamai Westbrooks



Supporting the Pirates, Sophomores Mallory Jones and Katherine Vechey cheer along with the crowd. "Without cheerleaders, I think the team would do a lot worse. Our job is to get the crowd pumped, and I think we do a good job at that," said Jones.

As the mascot, Junior Brian Pucher scopes out the game. This was Pucher's first year as the school mascot. "I thought being a mascot would show my school spirit a lot more than just going to games," said Pucher. Pucher, as well as other students, competed to become this year's mascot. Students voted to determine the new mascot.



'WE'VE GOT SPIRIT'

With a total of 17 girls and 2 boys, the members of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad walked away from their summer 2005 camp with their arms full of awards.

This year's captain, Senior Cambria Hollingsworth, was chosen for the leadership award out of all the captains competing. The team also had six members chosen to be on the All American National Cheerleading Association (NCA) cheer team. Of the six elected teammates, Senior Kamai Westbrooks was chosen to participate on the NCA staff for upcoming years.

In addition to individual awards, the team walked away with the "Top Team"

award as well as "Champion Chant."

"I was very proud of this year's members, and they worked very hard to earn the respect they did," said Coach Lori Govert.

As the summer came to an end, the girls and boys prepared for the football season. Because of the football team's regional title, the cheerleaders were able to cheer their team along through postseason.

"It was really fun being able to cheer on such a talented team this year. It allowed us teammates to stay close with one another even longer before the basketball season split," said Senior Kristin Brindley.

As the basketball season began, the girls and boys immediately started working on their routines.

"The transition to basketball season is really tough because it takes a lot of time and work from the girls. On the other hand, it is much more fun, and we get to dance a lot more," said Brindley.

As basketball season ended, the girls were hit with the end of a "successful" season.

"This year was a lot of fun, yet we got a lot done as well," said Junior Melissa Darang. "Without the seniors help and dedication to the squad, this season would not have gone anywhere."



With their arms in the air, Seniors Kristin Brindley, Callie Lucas and Ashley Thomas chant to pump up the crowd. The cheerleaders had a large team this year. "I like having a lot more girls on the team because you get to do a lot more cool stunts and stuff," said Senior Ashley Thomas.



Showing off their smiles, Sophomore Tracy Lucas and Senior Kristin Brindley stand high above the rest. During the season, the cheerleaders do a series of chants, stunts and lifts. "I enjoy flying (being in the air on top of stunts) because it is a rush. Being higher than everyone else is pretty cool," said Brindley.

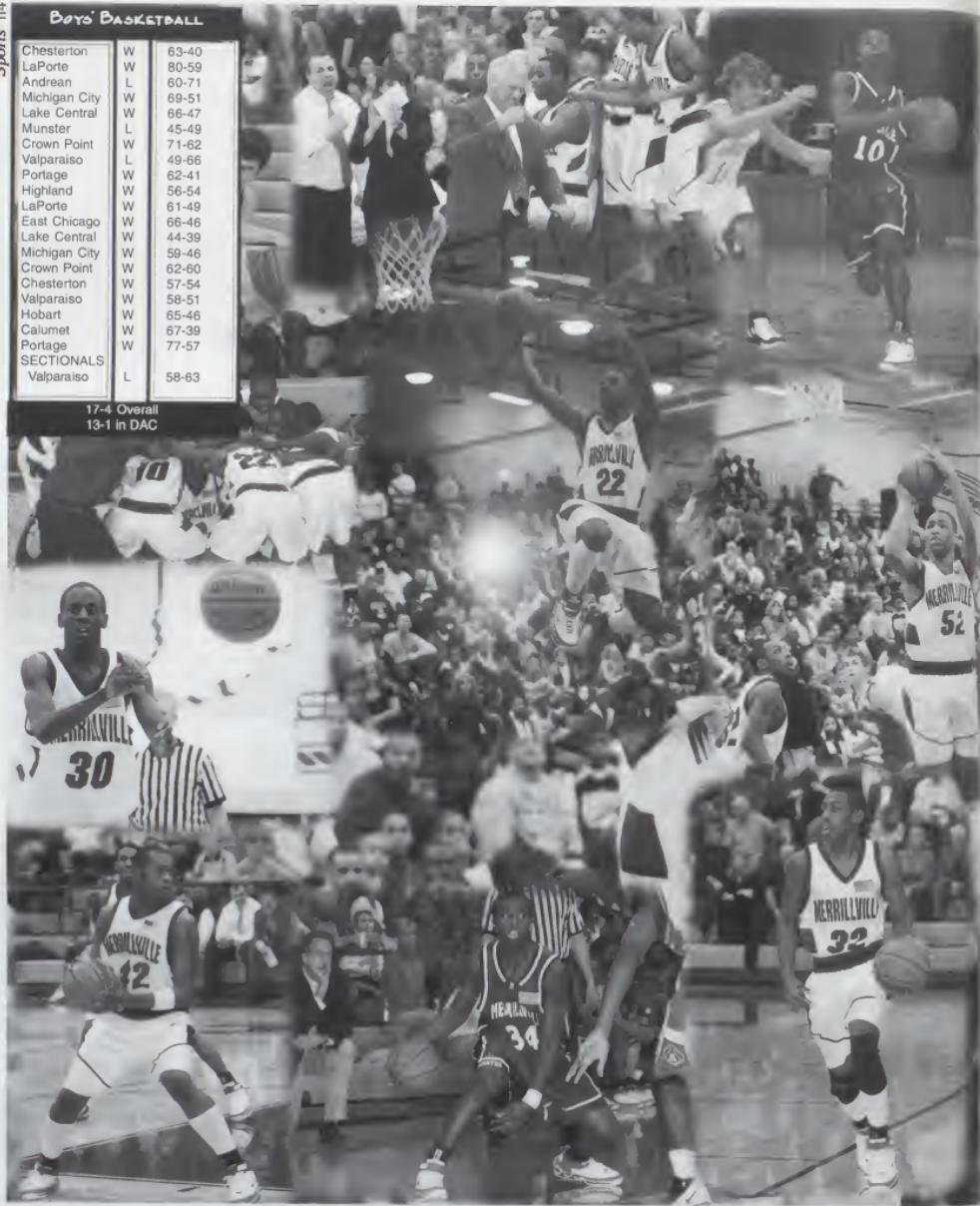


As she comes down from a lift, Senior Kamai Westbrooks has her teammates to catch her. Westbrooks explained that flying can be dangerous. "If it wasn't for the girls catching me, I would fall on the ground every time," said Westbrooks.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Chesterton	W	63-40
LaPorte	W	80-59
Andreas	L	60-71
Michigan City	W	69-51
Lake Central	W	66-47
Munster	L	45-49
Crown Point	W	71-62
Valparaiso	L	49-66
Portage	W	62-41
Highland	W	56-54
LaPorte	W	61-49
East Chicago	W	66-46
Lake Central	W	44-39
Michigan City	W	59-46
Crown Point	W	62-60
Chesterton	W	57-54
Valparaiso	W	58-51
Hobart	W	65-46
Calumet	W	67-39
Portage	W	77-57
SECTIONALS		
Valparaiso	L	58-63

17-4 Overall
13-1 in DAC



From top left: Coach Jim East, Sophomore Anthony Patten, Team, Junior Andrew Anderson, Senior Darryl Evans, Freshman Ryan Smith, Senior Gregory Hill, Senior Jamie Rowe, Junior Joshua White



In midair, Senior Darryl Evans pushes his way towards the basket as Crown Point's Kyle Hanaway and Alecks Alavanja look for the block. In response to being named Co-DAC Champions, Evans said, "It felt real good because the papers and everyone else doubted us. No one thought we could beat Valpo but we proved them wrong."

Making his move through defenders, Junior Andrew Anderson looks for the hoop. Anderson said one of the key factors to the 2005-2006 squad's success was team chemistry. "At the beginning it was a little shaky, but as it went on everything clicked, and at one point we were on a 12 game winning streak," said Anderson.



EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

From an exciting Homecoming game win against one of the top teams in the state, to a co-conference championship, the Boys' Basketball Team did more than what they expected. Their goal at the beginning of the season was surpassed by the end of the season.

"Our goal at the beginning was to just be competitive and to play hard. My personal goal was to improve my game," Senior Darrel Evans said.

The Pirates ended the season with a 17-4 record. Evans said the best part of the season was playing with his teammates and beating Valparaiso. The Pirates won the big-

gest game of the season when they faced the conference favorite, Valparaiso.

"We weren't happy about how we did the first time we played Valpo. Our goal for the homecoming game was to play hard and keep composure from the beginning of the game till the end of the game," Senior and small forward, James Rowe said.

The team said they prepared for the game by doing everything from praying to listening to music.

"Before the game, I listen to music on my IPOD and try to visualize the game," Junior Drew Dawson said.

"While I dress before a game, I read

quotes and scriptures that I have taped up in my locker that help me get focused," said Rowe.

Overall, the team members agreed that the season went better than expected. "I wasn't very satisfied with the sectional game, but the season as a whole was awesome," said Dawson.

"The season went much better than expected," Rowe said.

"The season was incredible," said Senior Greg Hill.

Evans said that he could not have wished for a better senior season or a more fun season.



In the tip-off against Portage's A.J. Repay, Freshman Ryan Smith reaches for the ball in hopes of getting possession. Being the only freshman on the Varsity squad, Smith said he felt little pressure on being the least experienced player on the team. "They were all older than me, but we were a family and got along well," said Smith.



As he dribbles past a Portage defender, Senior James Rowe looks down the court hoping for two points out of a fast break. Playing Shooting Guard this season, Rowe said the game that highlighted his season was the East Chicago game. "That's when we played well and played Merrillville basketball the way we know we can," said Rowe.



With Andrean defenders Jesse Repay and David Boarden on both sides, Senior Gregory Hill drives down the lane. Hill has been playing basketball since the age of four and says the team's toughest opponents were themselves. "We had the potential to beat any team out there. If a team beat us it was because we didn't perform our best," said Hill.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Highland	W	43-42
Andrean	W	76-60
Valparaiso	W	52-47
E.C. Chicago	W	68-62
Portage	W	65-49
Chesterton	W	44-34
LaPorte	W	34-31
Michigan City	W	68-50
Lake Central	W	63-45
Munster	L	53-51
Crown Point	W	57-41
Valparaiso	W	56-53 2OT
Portage	W	59-28
Lowell	W	63-45
LaPorte	W	58-48
Hobart	W	78-32
Lake Central	L	57-63
Chesterton	W	66-48
Michigan City	W	59-57
Crown Point	W	55-44
SECTIONALS		
Valparaiso	W	61-33
Chesterton	L	50-43

19-3 Overall

13-1 in DAC



From top left: Junior Latoya Noble, Junior Latoya Noble, Senior Gina Howard, Senior Gina Howard, Junior Christina Lobodinski, Senior Sharon Houston, Sophomore Britney Cruse, Senior Sharon Houston, Junior Jamesha Harris, Senior Angela East, Junior Latoya Noble, Team, Senior Sharon Houston



Aiming to make the three-point basket, Junior Jamesha Harris plays in the sectional game against Valparaiso. Playing both point guard and shooting guard, Harris said she prepared for this season by conditioning during the off-season. "On off-season, we worked a lot," she said. "We played every game like it was the last."

After the first half in the game against Michigan City, Coach Amy Govert huddles with the girls to give them some advice during a timeout. Coach Govert said, "This season was a great season because we quite possibly had the most wins in the school's history."



POUNDING THE COURT

Entering the 2005-2006 season, the girls' Basketball Team had high hopes and expectations. They were able to achieve these expectations while facing a few challenges.

The team was in for a change in coaching style with first-year head coach Amy Govert. Coach Govert enjoyed her first experience in coaching the team.

"I loved it, and I was able to have a lot of support from the Athletic Department," said Coach Govert.

Also new to the team this year was transfer, Senior Sharon Houston. Due to transfer rules, Houston could not play until the team was seven games into the

season. Coach Govert said Houston "opened our port and added a lot to our offense."

"At first I didn't know what to do, but after I got to know everyone on the team, it got better," said Houston.

Also adding to the team were returning players Sophomore Britney Cruse and Senior Brittney Moore. Govert believed both players were very strong in the Duneland Athletic Conference. Coach Govert said every player was a vital component to making this year's team as strong as possible.

Adding to the strength of the team was the effort put in by the players during

practices. Practices began in October, everyday after school until 5:30 p.m. and lasted until the middle of February. After practices, the girls still made time for bonding by hanging out or going to the movies as a team.

The hard work paid off in the end for the girls' Basketball Team. Their overall record was 19-3, and 13-1 in the conference. They achieved their goal of winning the conference title, but lost sectionals in the second round against Chesterton. Still, they were able to beat rival teams Valparaiso and East Chicago, which was not accomplished by the team the previous year.



With defenders surrounding her, Senior Sharon Houston uses her height to make the shot. Houston, who played forward and center this season after transferring from Gary's Lew Wallace, said that she will play for Old Dominion next year. Houston said, "Our sectional game also was the highlight of our season because we only beat them by a little, no one thought we could do it."



In the game against Crown Point, Senior Angela East tries to drive-in past her opponent. East, who began playing basketball when she was six years old, played shooting guard and small forward. "This season, we performed very well because we actually bonded; we worked as a team," East said.

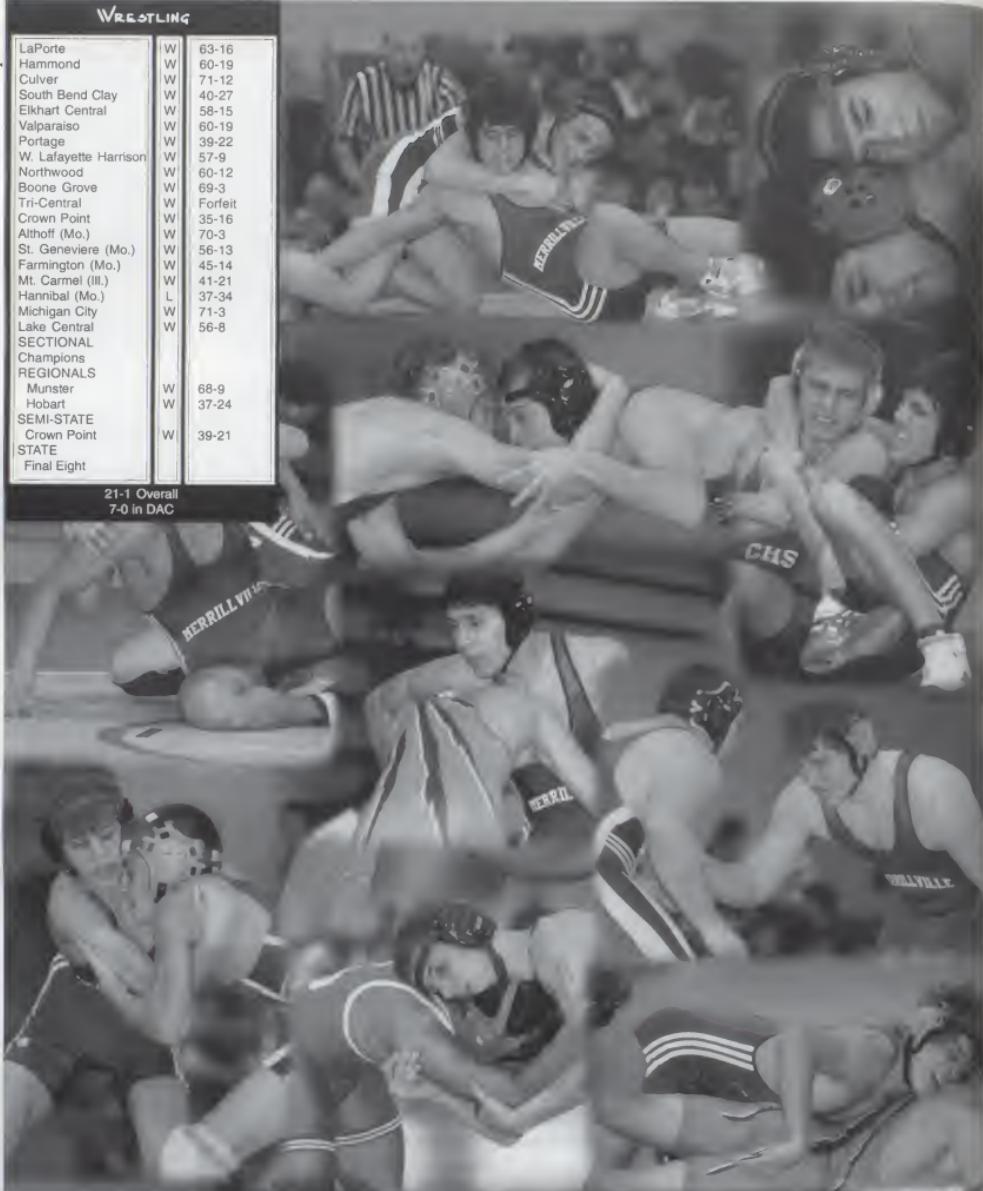


As she drives the ball down the court, Sophomore and point guard Britney Cruse dribbles the ball around her opponents. "My number one goal for this season was to win the DAC Championship," said the point guard Britney Cruse. The girls' Basketball Team achieved their goal.

WRESTLING

LaPorte	W	63-16
Hammond	W	60-19
Culver	W	71-12
South Bend Clay	W	40-27
Elkhart Central	W	58-15
Valparaiso	W	60-19
Portage	W	39-22
W. Lafayette Harrison	W	57-9
Northwood	W	60-12
Boone Grove	W	69-3
Tri-Central	W	Forfeit
Crown Point	W	35-16
Althoff (Mo.)	W	70-3
St. Genevieve (Mo.)	W	56-13
Farmington (Mo.)	W	45-14
Mt. Carmel (Ill.)	W	41-21
Hannibal (Mo.)	L	37-34
Michigan City	W	71-3
Lake Central	W	56-8
SECTIONAL		
Champions		
REGIONALS		
Munster	W	68-9
Hobart	W	37-24
SEMI-STATE		
Crown Point	W	39-21
STATE		
Final Eight		

21-1 Overall
7-0 in DAC



From top left: Senior Colt Contreras, Senior Cedric Von Rambert, Jr., Senior Justin Gust, Junior Joseph Wing, Junior Alexander Ponce, Senior Dexter Larimore, Sophomore Andrew Kepchar, Junior Kyle Yarnell, Junior Kyle Morris.



Taking control, Senior Cedric Von Rambert Jr. throws Lake Central's Lee Gomez to the floor. Throughout the season, Rambert tried to achieve his goal of advancing to state individually; however as the season went on, Rambert began to think of achieving the goal of state as a team. Rambert said that he always gave the best of his ability. Senior teammate, Justin Gust, said that Rambert would "always hype the team up."

With a look of determination, captain Dexter Larimore, a senior, finishes pinning his Portage opponent, Trent Ellis. Larimore said he always focused on achieving his goal of winning state. During the state championship, Larimore said he was not at all nervous. "This was my tournament to win," said Larimore. Larimore will attend Ohio State where he will play defensive tackle for the football team.



TAKIN' IT TO STATE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The 2006 Wrestling Team set out with high expectations. With many returning starters, and newcomers added into the mix, the team achieved their goals. The team advanced all the way to the state meet, something never accomplished in Merrillville's history.

"It took hard work and dedication from the whole team," said Senior Justin Gust.

With all of this hard work, the team was able to finish the season with a record of 21-1. Some of the team members attributed their winning record to their coach.

"Before a meet, coach [Mr. Maldonado]

talks to us and pumps us up," said Senior Colt Contreras.

"I tried to prepare the team as best I could. We practiced hard every day. We even had morning practices twice a week," said Mr. Maldonado.

The coach was not the only motivation for the team. The five captains, Seniors Dexter Larimore, Justin Gust, Cedric Von Rambert Jr., Javier Salas and Colt Contreras were also in charge of preparing the team and keeping them focused. Along with the team's winning season came the success of many individuals.

Many wrestlers started the season with personal goals.

"I wanted to win state," said Larimore.

That is exactly what happened. After going undefeated for the season, Larimore went on to win state in the heavyweight division. He finished the season with a record of 41-0. Salas was also able to win state after a season with only one loss. He finished the season 40-1. Gust, who also advanced to state, was very grateful for the experience.

Gust said, "It was the best feeling in the world to compete at state. All of my hard work had finally paid off."



Staring at his opponent, Kyle Malec, Senior Colt Contreras begins his match against Lake Central. Contreras said his attitude this season was not to win just for himself but for the team, his family and those who supported him. Although he was not undefeated, as he would have hoped, this season's record was an improvement from last season's for Contreras.



As he uses his strength, Senior Justin Gust holds on to his Lake Central opponent, Brock Sanders for a victory. Gust was one of the five captains of the Wrestling Team this year. Gust said the captains really helped the entire team stay focused throughout the season. Making it to state as a team, "Was the best feeling in the world," said Gust.

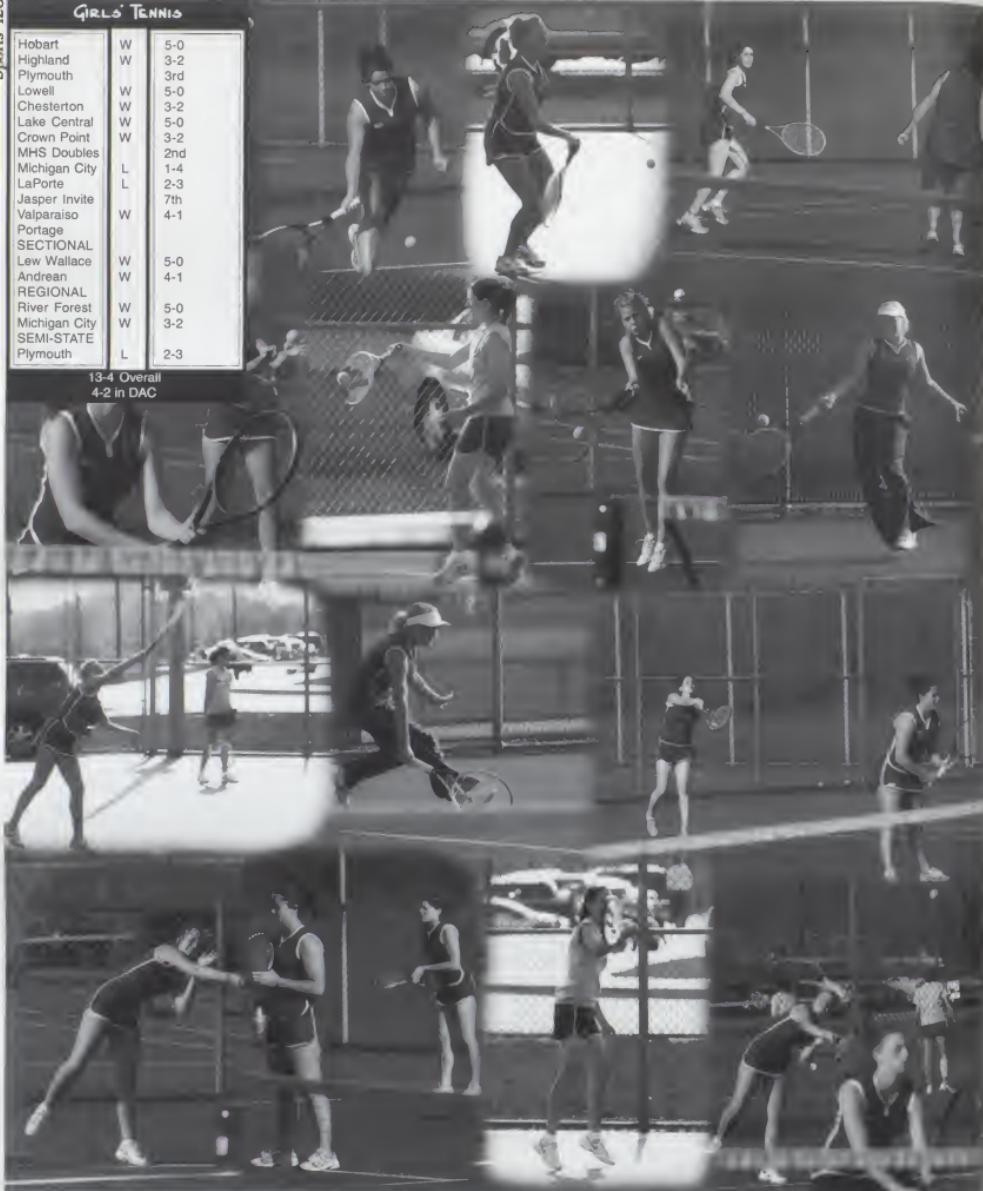


After defeating Lake Central's Rocco Depiro, the referee announces Junior Joseph Wing as the winner. Wing's main goal of this season was to advance to state. He accomplished this and he felt "so honored to just make it." To get as far as he did, Wing said he always listened to what Coach David Maldonado said and worked hard during practices.

Girls' Tennis

Hobart	W	5-0
Highland	W	3-2
Plymouth		3rd
Lowell	W	5-0
Chesterton	W	3-2
Lake Central	W	5-0
Crown Point	W	3-2
MHS Doubles		2nd
Michigan City	L	1-4
LaPorte	L	2-3
Jasper Invite		7th
Valparaiso	W	4-1
Portage		
SECTIONAL		
Lew Wallace	W	5-0
Andrean	W	4-1
REGIONAL		
River Forest		
Michigan City	W	5-0
SEMI-STATE	W	3-2
Plymouth	L	2-3

13-4 Overall
4-2 in DAC



From top left: Freshman Kelsey Barrick, Senior Callie Lucas, Sophomore Ashley Contreras, Freshman Kelsey Barrick, Senior Jessica Savin, Senior Morgan Zellers, Sophomore Stephanie Donohue, Senior Morgan Zellers, Senior Nina Bezvina, Senior Callie Lucas, Sophomore Stephanie Donohue, Senior Nina Bezvina, Sophomore Ashley Contreras, Freshman Kelsey Barrick, Senior Morgan Zellers, Freshman Kelsey Barrick, Sophomore Ashley Contreras, Sophomore Stephanie Donohue, Senior Morgan Zellers, Senior Jessica Savin



About to hit a forehand, Senior Nina Bezvina sets up to return the ball. "I've been playing tennis for a long time, and I work really hard," said Bezvina. Bezvina came to MHS from Russia two years ago and earned the number one spot immediately. She also made 1st Team All-State last year.

Making contact with the ball, Senior Morgan Zellers returns the shot. Zellers played doubles for the team this year. "I've been playing tennis for eight years, and I love it. Tennis is a lot harder than what people think," said Zellers.



WORKING TO ACE THE COMPETITION

The 2006 girls' Tennis Team set their goals high by preparing for the season as early as possible.

With four returning seniors this year, the team started preparing for the season in November. They had nightly practices with members of the boys' team to kick off their season. They would condition three times a week and hit two times a week. Practice continued for two and a half hours every day during the week throughout the season.

Overall, the team thought that all of this practice had been beneficial. The team was state ranked and undefeated for six matches

in a row. They also won the sectional and regional and advanced to play in the semi-state competition, where they lost to Plymouth.

Senior Morgan Zellers said the team used all of their strength and competed really well against the tough teams they faced.

"A lot of people think tennis is easy, and all you do is hit a ball over the net. It really takes a lot of physical strength, as well as mental strength. I think that playing doubles is harder because there are more people to worry about, so there is more thinking. When playing singles I am only worried about me and one other person," said Zellers.

Mr. David Zimmerman once again coached this year's team. He said he chose to tinker with the lineup to see who plays the best with what partner or who plays better in different positions. Coach Zimmerman has spent the past 23 years coaching girls' tennis. Twenty of those years have been with Merrillville.

Coach Zimmerman said, "I have been coaching girls for 20 years, but it is not that I prefer them over boys. It is the game of tennis that I prefer, and the girls just happen to give me a mental challenge that I enjoy."



As she watches for the ball, Sophomore Stephanie Donahue prepares. Donahue played singles as well as doubles this year. "Tennis takes a lot of focus and hard work," said Donahue.



Taking the ball in the air, Sophomore Ashley Contreras lines up her shot. Contreras played No. 2 doubles during the postseason. "I like playing doubles. It requires a lot of teamwork," said Contreras.



Before hitting a groundstroke, Freshman Kelsey Barrick runs to meet the ball. Barrick switched between playing No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles during the season. Barrick said, "Tennis is a great sport but requires a lot of dedication and hard work."

BOYS' GOLF

M.C. Tourney	11th of 13	406
Boone Grove	L	167-208
Bishop Noll	L	200-208
LaPorte	L	168-204
KV	10th of 12	408
Andreasen	L	175-196
Crown Point	L	168-189
Portage	L	185-189
Wheeler	W	174-200
Michigan City	L	151-195
Chesterton	L	155-195
Rensselaer Invite	16th of 20	393
Boone Grove Invite	5th of 8	199
Lake Central	L	164
Valparaiso	L	168
Chesterton	L	158-183
Michigan City	L	149
Portage	L	187-187
LaPorte	L	163
Valparaiso	L	164-195
Crown Point	L	163-201
Lake Central	L	172
Chesterton Invite	8th of 8	388
SECTIONAL	6th of 14	366

1-17 Overall
0-14 In DAC



From top left: Senior Jonathan Woodward, Senior Justin Belko, Junior Genesis Rodrigo, Freshman Matthew Neese, Junior Stoten Stofko, Junior Genesis Rodrigo, Junior Stoten Stofko, Senior Jonathan Woodward, Senior Scott Schaefer, Junior Christopher Papp and Senior Justin Belko



As Senior Justin Belko watches, Senior Jonathan Woodward puts the ball into the hole. The team had three returning seniors this year. "We have been around each other, and we know each other's game," Woodward said.

Looking to see where the ball went, Freshman Matthew Neese stares down the length of the fairway. Neese started varsity as a freshman. He said, "My coach gave me a chance to play varsity, and I had to earn my spot."



Boys' GOLF TEAM KEEPS IT UNDER PAR

With a new head coach replacing Mr. Richard Ohlenkamp, the boys' Golf Team said they had to make some adjustments for this season. New coach, Mr. Dave Hinkel, came to MHS Golf to a team of three seniors and many underclassmen filling out the varsity spots.

One of the top golfers, Senior Scott Schafer, said that Coach Hinkel is "a good guy. He's confident and he keeps our heads up."

"He's very entertaining and funny. He keeps us loose," said Junior Genesis Rodrigo.

The guys spent their summers playing in leagues, taking private lessons and practicing their strokes to prepare for the season. Junior Stoten Stofko spent the summer and

part of the fall playing in his father's golf league at Sherwood Golf Course in Schererville, Indiana.

"My dad asked me to play with one of the members because he lost his partner and I filled his spot. I saw it as a good opportunity to practice," said Stofko.

When the season started, the boys practiced every day at Summertree Golf Course, doing everything from playing a nine-hole course to chipping and putting. Making strides to playing better golf was important, but the golfers also found keeping each other's heads up a top priority.

Junior Dennis Barsich said that one of the team's biggest strengths was that they could help each other out and help each others' games.

Although the golf season was not as successful as some of the golfers would have hoped, the members still had high goals to keep them motivated throughout match play.

Barsich said that his number one goal was to "shoot lower scores and make Varsity."

With the loss of Seniors Scott Schafer, Jonathan Woodward and Justin Belko, the younger golfers have to look elsewhere for leadership.

Although the younger teammates say that these losses will be tough, they have high hopes to fill their spots and make improvements on their games for the following spring.



Lining up his putt, Junior Genesis Rodrigo looks toward the hole. Regarding putting, Rodrigo said, "It's definitely our strength as a team."



As he follows through with his shot, Senior Jonathan Woodward keeps his eye on the ball. As a captain, Woodward is a leader for the team. Junior Genesis Rodrigo said, "His performance on the course proves his leadership."



After completing his shot, Senior Scott Schafer watches the outcome. Schafer said his goal this year was to "score low and hit straight."

BOYS' TRACK

Valparaiso	W	74-58
Lake Central	W	78-74
Crown Point	W	89-43
Michigan City	W	92-40
Portage	W	82-50
Portage Relays		1st
Chesterton	W	98-34
LaPorte	W	104-28
Valparaiso Relays		2nd
DAC		2nd
SECTIONAL		1st
REGIONAL		2nd

DAC 7-0



From top left: Senior Cedric Rambert, Senior Raymond Duttweiler, Sophomore Daniel Caruana, Senior Justin Floyd, Junior Bradley Kurczynski, Senior Armani Blakely, Senior Robert Lewis, Freshman James Manis, Junior Richard Reddick, Senior Cedric Rambert, Senior Carlton Hoyle, Freshman James Manis, Sophomore Ronald Williams, Sophomore Jeffrey Releford, Senior Timothy Sovich, Junior Mathew Bane, Senior Timothy Sovich



At the peak of his vault, Senior Timothy Sovich clears the bar by over a foot. Sovich improved throughout the season and increased his personal record by a foot and a half. Excited for the postseason Sovich mentioned how "we win sectionals every year, and we dominated the DAC this year. I practice hard every day so I can keep improving my personal record."



Running past his Crown Point competitor, Senior Robert Lewis goes for another win. Lewis is one of the leaders of the track team and works hard every year to improve his time. "Last year, I couldn't run that much because I was injured, but this year, I was healthy throughout this season," Lewis added.

SPRINTING TOWARDS THE TOP

Long distance, short distance, pole-vault, hurdles and relays are just a few of the many events the boys' Track Team competed in. Practices began in February, and the boys would usually lift weights for two days, work on abdominals for one day and spend two days running or working on the individual events.

Coach James Johnston said, "It feels good to see improvements from year to year and to see improvements from the underclassmen.

"Tim Sovich pole vaulted from 13 feet to 14.6 feet. That is just phenomenal!" Coach Johnston said.

This season is the first time that the boys' Track Team has been undefeated in the Duneland Athletic Conference. Coach Johnston said it would have been a big accomplishment if the team won first place at the regional.

To prepare for a meet, many boys partake in many different pre-meet rituals. Junior Andrew Milenkovski said he jogs around the track in the opposite direction for a warm-up at every meet. During warm-ups, Senior Armani Blakely gets in the zone and stays focused.

Some boys on the team decided to participate in track for different reasons. For

Blakely, "I have always had a natural love for it."

In the case of Senior Carlton Hoyles, "I don't like any other sport except track, and this school doesn't have a men's gymnastics team."

Besides being undefeated in the DAC, the boys' Track Team also won Sectionals. The team lost Regionals by a mere three points, and ended up advancing eight athletes to state. Hoyles, Sophomore Ronneal Williams and Senior Dexter Larimore were able to qualify in two events each. Sovich and Hoyles both brought home eighth place medals. Sovich placed in the pole vault, while Hoyles placed in the 110 hurdles.



With help from Senior Armani Blakely, Senior Cedric Rambert uses a starting block to compete in the 400-meter relay race against Crown Point and Lake Central. Rambert also participated in pole vault and the 200-meter race. "I've had a lot of personal record this year for pole vault. I'm still planning to improve more to make it to State," said Rambert.



Participating in the 110-meter hurdles, Sophomore Ronneal Williams bounds over the first hurdle. "My goal this year is to go to regionals and state. To make it there, I try very hard to improve my time for every hurdle race," Williams said.



Pushing hard and staying ahead of his teammate, Senior Raymond Duttwiler, Senior Kevin Wilson participates in the mile race. "When I run the mile race, all I tell myself is to keep pushing hard to keep my head and mind in the race. If there's any gap, I have to close the gap and keep running hard," Wilson said.

GIRLS' TRACK

Valparaiso
Crown Point
Lake Central
West Lafayette
Relays
Michigan City
Portage
Portage Relays
Chesterton
LaPorte
DAC Meet
SECTIONAL
REGIONAL

L	90-42
L	80-52
L	100-32
	5th
L	86-46
W	75.5-53.5
	2nd
L	87-43
W	81-50
	5th
	1st
	7th



From top left: Senior Stephanie Pavlish, Freshman Kate Tarr, Sophomore Britney Curry, Senior Raquel Guerrero, Freshman Rebecca Neville, Senior Alison Conques, Sophomore Jessica Boursier, Senior Tamara Gaddy, Junior Whitney Williams, Senior Stephanie Pavlish, Sophomore Brianna Ursery, Sophomore Chantrice Cade, Junior Maritsa Escalinta, Junior Eniola Akinrinade, Freshman Rebecca Neville, Junior Pamela Johnson



As she finishes the long jump, Senior Abigail Deidigha sinks into the sand. Deidigha said she warms up, stretches and does not let anybody interrupt her before her meets. This season, Deidigha said she saw "a lot of improvement, especially in the freshmen."

Jumping over a hurdle, Freshman Rebecca Neville runs in a meet. Neville has been running track since she was five years old. This year, Neville said she had trouble with her calf. "It changed a little bit of my form. It was real tight and needed some stretching."



KEEPING THEIR EYES ON THE FINISH LINE

The girls' Track Team strived for another successful season again this year and a repeat of the sectional championship while overcoming injuries and working through many obstacles. Coach Joe Atria said that he was happy with the turnout he had this year.

Atria said, "Several excellent athletes returned from last year's team, and several girls with great talent were new to the team this year."

Freshman Rebecca Neville said she had to come through for the Lady Pirates in the 4x100-meter relay, the long-jump, the 100-meter hurdles and 200-meter hurdles.

She said, "It was tough to come up from middle school and straight into varsity po-

sitions. The coaches just put me in those positions because they said I was talented, but I had to earn the spot by earning the other girls' respect."

The girls finished the season with a 3-5 record and a sectional championship, while being ranked in the top ten in the region throughout the season.

Sophomore Britney Curry said, "I think we were real strong in some events but not as strong as we would have liked to be around."

Senior Tamara Gaddy believed that the team had a really good chance at advancing some of the relay teams, some of the individual sprinters and some of the hurdlers to state. She said, "We have a lot of

talent in our 4x100 meter relay teams, and we have some good hurdlers."

The girls were plagued with injuries throughout the season, which impaired their chances for a repeat of the team sectional championship.

Neville said, "Tamara Gaddy and Stephanie Pavlish were injured this year, and the team had several other smaller injuries. We had a lot of shin splints and muscle strains."

Overall, Junior Jemesha Harris summed the season up as successful.

She said, "I really have a lot of confidence that some of the girls will advance to state. If we get some girls that qualify for state, then it was a successful season."



Running during a meet, Junior Arielle Anderson strives for the finish line. Anderson said, "I like our team unity this year." Anderson has been running track since she was six. She said, "If I mess up, I try not to let it get to me."



As Junior Brianna Ursery hands over the baton, Sophomore Jessica Boursier receives it. "We have a young team," said Ursery, "but it's strong." Last season, Ursery endured a leg injury before the outdoor season, and her goal this year was to participate outdoors.

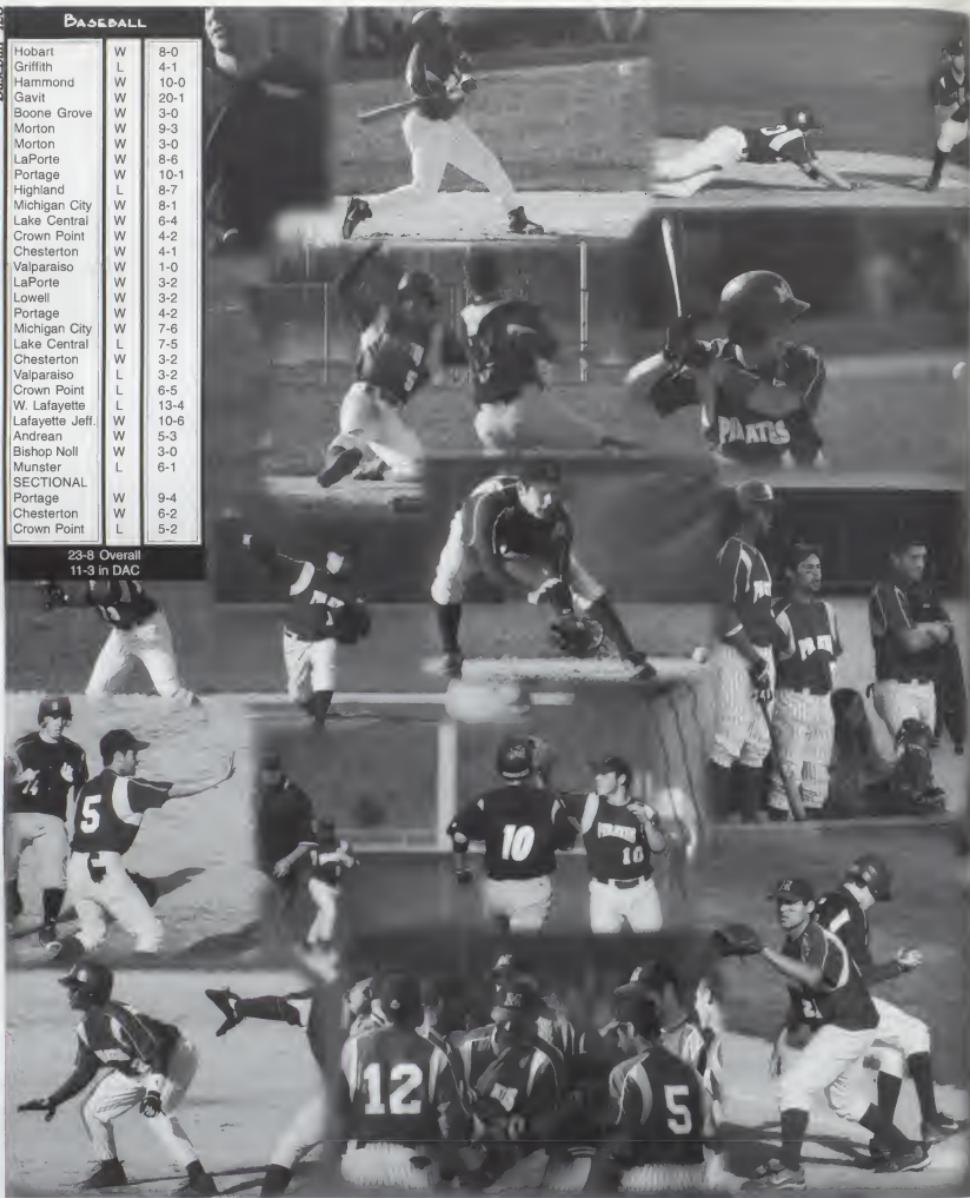


While gripping the pole, Senior Alison Conquest tries to pull herself upward. Conquest received her personal record at the beginning of the season with 9 feet 6 inches in the pole vault. "I always talk to my dad," said Conquest about her preparation. "He fills me with good confidence."

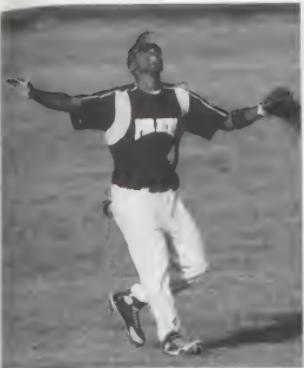
BASEBALL

Hobart	W	8-0
Griffith	L	4-1
Hammond	W	10-0
Gavit	W	20-1
Boone Grove	W	3-0
Morton	W	9-3
Morton	W	3-0
LaPorte	W	8-6
Portage	W	10-1
Highland	L	8-7
Michigan City	W	8-1
Lake Central	W	6-4
Crown Point	W	4-2
Chesterton	W	4-1
Valparaiso	W	1-0
LaPorte	W	3-2
Lowell	W	3-2
Portage	W	4-2
Michigan City	W	7-6
Lake Central	L	7-5
Chesterton	W	3-2
Valparaiso	L	3-2
Crown Point	L	6-5
W. Lafayette	L	13-4
Lafayette Jeff	W	10-6
Andrean	W	5-3
Bishop Noll	W	3-0
Munster	L	6-1
SECTIONAL		
Portage	W	9-4
Chesterton	W	6-2
Crown Point	L	5-2

23-8 Overall
11-3 in DAC



From top left: Senior Darryl Evans, Junior Rahdric Dix, Junior Rigoberto Zambrano, Senior Jonathan Kucik, Junior Alexander Ponce, Sophomore Jeremy Maynard, Alexander Ponce, Senior Adrian Gober, Junior Rigoberto Zambrano, Senior Alfredo Arredondo, Junior Rigoberto Zambrano, Senior Michael Padgett, Senior Beaudilio McClendon, Team, Senior Jose Ponce



As he looks in the air, Senior Darryl Evans makes his move to get underneath a fly ball. Being one of the region's top players, Evans said that the team was equally strong in batting and fielding. "We can hit the ball when we need to, and we don't allow many runs on defense," said Evans.

Gathered on the field, players look around and share a moment together. Senior Jonathan Kucik said that everyone on the team had good chemistry with one another. "We're like a big family," said Kucik.



STRIKING OUT THE COMPETITION

With nine seniors preparing for their last season together in high school, members of the Baseball Team had a lot to look forward to.

"We have a lot of solid players and the leadership of the seniors helps out a lot," said Varsity Head Coach Zac Wells.

Although the team had a few obstacles to overcome throughout the season, they still managed to keep a high record ending in 23-8 overall. The team suffered two injuries, but both players returned quickly. Senior Jose Ponce injured his hamstring and Junior Alexander Ponce dislocated his finger. Alexander's injury opened up the shortstop position, and Junior Samuel Vesely jumped right in. Vesely said that it was nerve-racking playing on a senior-domi-

nated team, but they "showed me support as the new starting shortstop."

Besides physical challenges, the team had to deal with mental challenges as well.

"Playing 28 games in two months and the difficulty to concentrate during Spring Break, Prom and the nice weather can be hard for a team to focus mentally," said Coach Wells. "But they came through and stuck it out."

Two pitchers led the team in their winning season. Southpaw Senior Adam Farag helped bring the team to several victories. He had a 0.8 earn run average. Also, Junior Matthew Douglas helped the team win several games.

Douglas said he is just trying to concentrate on the season now, but he agreed that

next year will be tough with so many seniors leaving.

"Our biggest loss for next year is going to be Boogie because he always comes through in the clutch," said Douglas.

Senior Darryl (Boogie) Evans, Jr. contributed to the team's wins. He had 17 steals, a .317 batting average, and committed no errors in the field.

"Everybody pitches in and does their part in the games that we play," said Evans.

The team said that losing nine seniors will be a difficult obstacle to overcome next year. Coach Wells said he believes that they will still have a strong group of players to contribute to the season next year.

Senior Alfredo Arredondo said, "They'll still be tough," he noted, "because of the successful year we had."



With a look of determination as he goes through his motion, Senior Adam Farag delivers the pitch. As Merrillville's top pitcher, Farag said that a lot of hard work went into off-season preparation. "It was tough because we thought we were going to be short on pitching, so we had to work real hard."



In his batting stance, Senior Jonathan Kucik waits for the pitch. Kucik played left field for the Pirates and said that the team's main goal involved the number of games won. Kucik said, "We wanted to have at least a 25-3 record."



Sliding toward the base, Junior Rahdric Dix attempts to avoid the tag. Dix said he believed that the Baseball Team's biggest strengths were speed and mental approach. "We don't think about our record and just play baseball," said Dix. "We try to have fun."

SOFTBALL

Griffith	L	2-0
Lake Station	W	6-1
Chesterton	L	19-1
Hebron	L	10-3
Valparaiso	L	14-4
Laf. Jeff	L	13-3
Brandywine	L	4-3
Penn	L	11-1
LaPorte	W	1-0
Portage	L	2-1
Michigan City	L	5-4
Lake Central	L	5-0
Crown Point	L	8-0
K.V.	W	2-1
Bishop Noll	W	3-2
Chesterton	L	10-0
Valparaiso	L	1-0
LaPorte	L	3-0
Portage	L	3-0
Michigan City	L	12-1
Andrean	L	5-1
Pioneer	L	1-0
Laf.Jeff	L	4-2
Lowell	L	20-8
Lake Central	L	14-0
Boone Grove	W	2-1
Crown Point	L	8-1
SECTIONAL		
Crown Point	L	9-0

5-23 Overall
1-13 in DAC



From top left: Team huddle, Senior Heather Zurek, Juniors Amy Vargas and Tiffany Owen, team huddle, Senior Rachael Rudolph, Junior Tiffany Owen, Senior Ashley Thomas, Junior Lauren Stacks, Senior Nicole Vowell, Senior Nicole Vowell and Junior Amy Vargas, Senior Tiffany Kedziora



"If the ball comes to me, to know what to do with it on that situation." Junior Lauren Stacks said that this is what goes through her mind during a game. The softball players said they have a strong bond with one another. "We are all pretty much best friends. We've been playing together since we were ten, and we know each other extremely well," said Stacks.

The lead-off hitter for the Pirates, Senior Heather Zurek puts the ball in play. Coach Amy Govert made the girls write, "Admit your mistakes, learn from your mistakes and don't let it happen again" on a piece of paper to always keep in their pocket while they are playing. "That saying helped me to focus on not making the same mistakes over again," said Zurek.



SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

Having eight out of the nine starters returning from the previous year, the Softball Team and their coach said that they hoped to have the skill and experience to make it very far this year.

"This team can beat anybody when they want to play," said Coach Amy Govert who, along with the players, had very high expectations for the season.

"I expected us to do really well. With all of our returning seniors, we expected to win," said Senior Tiffany Kedziora.

Only winning a few games in the beginning of the season, the Pirates did not get the start they had hoped for. The girls had

a hard time finding the right chemistry on the field.

"We had all the three aspects of the game [hitting, fielding, pitching] but they were not working together at the same time. We still had to get them all to work together to get better results," said Senior Heather Zurek.

In spite of the hole the team was in, the girls and Coach Govert kept believing that they would be able to come together in time for the very important games.

Even though the Pirates' Softball Team took some time to find out how to play together as a team, they faced less problems off the field.

"I love just being with the girls every day because we get along so well. We are like sisters," said Zurek.

Looking ahead for next year, the returning varsity players agreed that there is going to be a lot of changes on the team. By losing seven seniors, five of which were starters, the team will have to bring up players from the JV team.

Junior Amy Vargas said, "I have played with the group of seniors all my life. It's going to be tough without them, but we can still do it."



Following through with her pitch, Junior Amy Vargas focuses on throwing the perfect strike. In the beginning of the season, Vargas strained her tricep due to her pitching movement and was out for a couple of weeks. Teammate Senior Heather Zurek said that Vargas' arm continued to hurt throughout the entire season, causing a few setbacks.



After fielding the ball, Junior Jessica Falls throws the ball to first base to get the out. Falls said she has played softball since she was six years old. "I just love softball," Falls said. Decreasing errors and becoming a better fielder have been two improvements Falls said she has made this season.



In her ready position, Junior Tiffany Owen catches the ball at home plate. Owen said that next season only four varsity starters will return. "We'll do good, but we have to bring up a lot of people. We need to step up the aggressiveness," she said.

SPORTS

Boys' VARSITY SOCCER



Front row: Richard Reddick III, Yevheniy Bezvin, Jimmy Ramirez, Jeffrey Jelinek, Javier Prieto, Juan Gutierrez, Michael Ferguson; Second: Edward Barcenas, Benjamin Spires, Aleksander Ristevski, Edwin Moreno, Brian Albee, Akinjide Akininnade, Ryan Stokes; Back row: Coach Brad Daniel, Joseph Wing, Mladen Suleski, Nome Damjanoski, Coach Brian Past, Donald York, Daniel Enghofer, Bryan Ruder, Coach Rick Hurey.

Boys' JV SOCCER



Front Row: Brandon Taylor, Gregory Jansen, Prince Nzeata, Jacob George, Nicholas Kaoukis, Michael Ferguson, Mark Campbell; Second: Jacob Potter, Romeo Harper, David Macon, Joshua Phillips, James Steriovski, Nicholas Vadas, Daniel Rios, Eric Herzog; Back row: Coach Brad Daniel, Alex Olandezos, Andrew Goralczyk, Erik Cioni, Coach Brian Past, Tyler Roark, Andrew Milenkovski, Keith Wachter, Coach Rick Hurey.

Boys' CROSS COUNTRY



Front Row: Raymond Tinoco, Matthew Bane, Michael Gough, Jeremy Fieger, Seth Binder, Corbin Massa, Raymond Duttwiler; Back Row: Kevin Wilson, Daniel Caruana, Coach Mike Hoffman, Justin Floyd, Donald Bhe

Boys' TENNIS



Front Row: Kenneth Albee, Manager Courtney Miller, Stoten Stofko, Manager Morgan Zellers, Amir Arshami, Manager Lindsey Trock, Stephen Carniello; Second Row: Mark Bobowsky, Patrick Laorden, Jared Perkins, Marques Good, Nolan Mayersky, Cody Stewart, Ashish Arshanapalli, Nathaniel Oregia Back Row: Manager Chae Torres, Coach Alan Branda, Mack Brown, Dennis Barsich, Drake Branda, Christopher Burke, Wyatt Perkins, Coach David Zimmerman, Manager Cassandra Adler

GIRLS' GOLF



Front Row: Nicole Hatch, Erin Marek, Jessica Myren, Coach R.J. Ohlenkamp, Elizabeth Lashenik, Ashley Washburn, Angela East

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL



Front Row: Lauren Hallenbeck, Chelsie Kelly; Second Row: Ashley Contreras, Christina Lobodinski, Tiffany Owen, Jacqueline Miller, Shanna Kacher, Amy Vargas, Lisa Saberniak, Amy Gurney; Back Row: Coach Lisa Bank, Coach Linda Wilson, Callie Lucas, Stephanie Pavlish, Erica Albia, Coach Mark Ciesielski, Coach Tania Price.

JV VOLLEYBALL



Front Row: Tiffany Owen, Martha Langbehn, Zinzi Williams, Alyssa Brindley, Amy Gurney, Amy Vargas; Back Row: Manager Nicole Jones, Kristen Hoyles, Tiffany Robertson, Jillian Jones, Melissa Warren, Kelsey Barrick, Coach Linda Wilson

FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL



Front Row: Alyssa Richmond, Jessica Aldridge, Yaa Asabere, Sarah Williams, Mandy Weis; Back Row: Taylor Wright, Mallory Lancaster, Coach Lisa Bank, Julia Golden, Kelly Sarsfield

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER



Front Row: Magen Fassoth, Amber Barnes, Mercedes Forsell, Michelle Kister, Erica Richmond; Second Row: Brittany Maynard, Kacey Loudermilk, Sarah Vaughn, Amanda Churilla, Jenna Baisden; Back Row: Coach Tammy Deel, Katie Balko, Kendall Sharp, Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Alison Conquest, Karen Balko, Coach Jason Kendera

GIRLS' JV SOCCER



Front Row: Andrea Warman, Michele Marshall, Ariel Valenzuela, Elyssa Mojica; Second Row: Eniola Akinrinade, Kathrine Harold, Debra Harstad, Kalynn Harstad, Jameea Long; Back Row: Coach Tammy Deel, Katelynn Kora, Brittany Perry, Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Oyindoye Deidigha, Despina Lozevski, Coach Jason Kendera

2005-06

SPORTS

FRESHMAN CHEERLEADING



Front Row: Kelly Tarr, Jennifer Cieslak; Second Row: Christina Nacovits, Mercedes Forrell, Ashley Carrero; Back Row: Leah Floyd, Mallory Lancaster, Kendall Bonick, Melissa Kephshire

VARSITY CHEERLEADING



Front Row: Cambria Hollingsworth, Ashley Thomas; Second Row: Erica Aloia, Kristin Brindley, Holly Floyd, Shakira Best, Kaman Westbrooks, Callie Lucas; Third Row: Katherine Vechev, Madeline Govert, Jalyssa King; Back Row: Melissa Darang, Markeith Bray, Samone Kinsey, Mallory Jones, Joshua Crayne, Tracy Lucas

Boys' SWIMMING



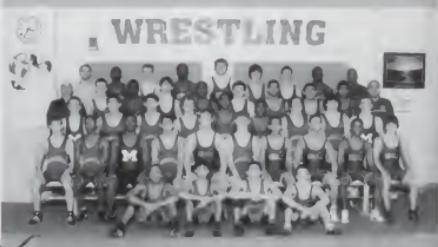
Front Row: Shaquille Young, Joshua Hinguet, Daniel Jutkus, Jacob Pavel, Joseph Husek, Cordero Tramble; Back Row: Coach Downham, Stoten Stefko, Jacob George, Michael Highland, Coach Matt Pavlovich, Donald Wittemore, Scott Stephen, Dwight Harding

Girls' SWIMMING



Front Row: Vanessa Alexander, Ashley Negrelli; Second Row: Maritsa Escalante, Michelle Rose, Whitney Williams, Angela Cast, Andrea Paunitz, Alyssa Cast, Lindsey Tobin, Amrit Butler; Third Row: Amanda Gonzales, Morgan Gill, Kirsten Koharchik, Karen Balko, Katie Ballo, Ashlee Holland, Chastity Burns, Chelsea Fejes, Terri Hailey; Fourth Row: Manager Jamie Sieb, Theresa Rizo, Taylor Wright, Sarah Yacko, Kayla Wszolek, Coach Matt Pavlovich, Kendall Sharp, Kristina McPherson, Kelsey Barrick, Avenel Butts, Coach Downham

WRESTLING



Front Row: Rufus Barnett, Carlo Martinez, Javier Salas, Danny Stoica; Second Row: Andrew Kapchar, Justin Jacobs, Deonte Day, William Coria, Bradley Kurczynski, Kyle Yarnell, Darius Richmond, Michael Gates, Wilson Williams, William Costakis; Third Row: Justin Chandler, Jake Salas, Alexander Ponce, Kyle Morris, Jamil Lawrence, Keon Jones, Edward Flores, Colt Conteras, Robert Melby; Fourth Row: Coach Gene Biernan, Justin Gust, Roosevelt Williams, Benjamin Smithers, George Neely, Damion Wilmoth, Cedric Rambert, Charles Campos, Jarred Gordon, Coach David Maldonado; Back Row: Coach Rob Petyko, Rommeal Harris, Quinn Roberts, Travis Marks, Dexter Larimore, Joseph Wing, Demetrios Volikas, Ronneal Williams, Coach Michael Lawrence

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL



Front Row: Latoya Noble, Jamesha Harris, Britney Cruse; Second Row: Tamara Gaddy, Britney Curry, Christina Lobodinski, Angela East, Raquel Guerrero; Back Row: Coach Amy Govert, Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Gabrielle Walton, Brittney Moore, Gina Howard, Coach Marc Bruner, Coach Stephanie Nelson

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL



Front Row: Manager DeAndre Pierce, Isaac White, Manager Darren Murphy, James Rose, Manager Anthony Hillsman; Second Row: Drew Dawson, Daryl Evans, Josh White, Gregory Hill, Albert Williams, Anthony Patton; Back Row: Coach Jim East, Sean Hudson, Andrew Anderson, Ryan Smith, Kyle Bonick, Coach Leo Bonin, Coach Lori Dust

GIRLS' JV BASKETBALL



Front Row: Ashley Nichols, Damita Thomas, Tiara Williams, Brittany Baily, Alysa Cody, Back Row: Rachel SanMiguel, Jasmine Rodriguez, Coach Marc Bruner, Michaela Herrod, Despina Lozevski

BOYS' JV BASKETBALL



Front Row: Joseph White, Jonathan Lee, Brandon Molloy, Rudy Campbell, David Macon, Rodney Taylor; Back Row: Arlis Clanton, Marquise Greene, Jonathan Nwannunu, Coach Leo Bonin, Kelli Goodman, Anthony Lowe, Robert Dyson

GIRLS' FRESHMAN BASKETBALL



Front Row: Alyssa Richmond, Jennifer Crawley, Ruby Maldonado, Claudia Ponce, Nadia Millard, Christine Paden; Back Row: Denise Beatty, Emilija Stojova, Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Courtney Thomas, Jade Dixon

2005-06

SPORTS

Boys' FRESHMAN BASKETBALL



Front Row: Rayon Lovick, Ryan Stokes, James Manis, Matthew Neese, Christopher Stokes, Glen Johnson; Second Row: Manager Michael Yates, Harold Turner, Samuel Stewart, Elijah Samuels, Ronald Crosby, Romeo Harper, Ashton Cole, Manager Christopher Gemelas; Back Row: Coach Jim Vermillion, Melvin Davis, Antonio Ross, William Kelly, Dolapo Macarthy, Jerry Clark, Tyler Roark, Andrew Goralczyk, Coach Mike Megyesi

GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY



Front Row: Chantrice Cade, Arielle Anderson, Raquel Guerrero, Kate Tarr, Second Row: Maritza Escalante, Brianna Jenkins, Jessica Bourquier, Ashley Woods, Jade Dixon; Back Row: Tiarra Wright, Brianna Ursery, Coach Bobi Cole, Lashatae Goethe, Stephanie King

VARSITY SOFTBALL



Front Row: Levitia Randolph, Tiffany Owen, Nicole Vowell, Renee Schmellmeyer, Rachael Rudolph; Second Row: Heather Zurek, Rebecca Hoover, Ashley Thomas, Tiffany Kedziora, Amy Vargas; Back Row: Manager Nicole Rudolph, Jessica Falls, Megan McNeil, Coach Army Govert, Lauren Stacks, Jessica Francis, Coach Stephanie Nelson

JV SOFTBALL



Front Row: Jennifer Crawley, Jessica Purnea, Brenda Roy, Alyssa Cast, Felicia Kedziora, Tracy Lucas, Ashley McKnight; Second Row: Irene Lopez, Anissa Lafitte, Taylor Wright, Brittni Rund, Katelynn Kora, Sarah Williams, Zinzi Williams; Back Row: Coach Carolina Procter, Megan Lovick, Kelly Sarsfield, Tiffany Robertson, Coach Marc Bruner, Jillian Jones, Ashley Munchenburg, Lisa Saberniak, Coach Jennifer Mason

GIRLS' TENNIS



Front Row: Cara Zimmerman, Ashley Cherry, Nina Bezvina, Jalyssa King, Chae Torres, Cassandra Adler, Lauren Townsend; Second Row: Callie Lucas, Hannelore Reynolds, Jennifer Tucker, Lindsey Trock, Trine Eskesen, Ashley Contreras, Morgan Zellers; Back Row: Coach Kim Napinski, Jessie Savin, Stephanie Zellers, Kristen Hoyles, Michelle Zeber, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Lesley Richards, Stephanie Donahue, Stephanie Mercado, Kelsey Barrick, Coach James Simon

VARSITY BASEBALL



Front Row: Alexander Ponce, Jonathan Kucik, Rahdric Dix, Drew Dawson, Rigoberto Zambrano, Jr.; Second Row: Beaudilio McClendon, Alfredo Arendondo, Jose Ponce, Phillip Keene, Darryl Evans; Back Row: Coach Zac Wells, Adrian Gober, Adam Farag, Samuel Vesely, Matthew Douglas, Michael Padgett; Coach Mark Ciesielski

JV BASEBALL



Front Row: Ryan Halbe, Eric Zaremba, Dustin Blaylock, Charles Campos; Second Row: Mark Bobrowski, Ryan Stokes, Clayton Cooper, Douglas Domikalis, Daniel Jutkus; Back Row: Coach Aaron Longacre, Jeremy Maynard, Patrick Nawracaj, Steven Lohse, Paul Rosa, David Lobodinski, Coach Brad Shulte

FRESHMAN FOOTBALL



FRESHMAN BASEBALL

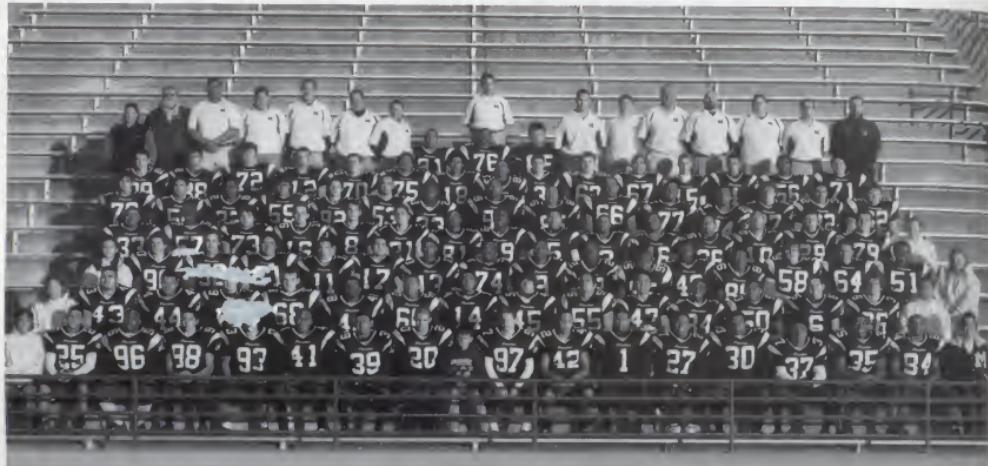


Front Row: Jacob Alvarez, Joel Van Winkle, Eric Davis, Daniel Rios, Taylor Douglas, Dustin D'Asto; Second Row: Francisco Swetlik, Ryan Murga, Robert Melby, Eric Herzog, Mirko Taleff; Back Row: Coach Anthony Hofer, Donald Cox, Joseph Nelson, Aaron Kaczmarski, Tyler Roark, Richard Cast, Coach Kermit Deel

Front Row: Anthony Wright, Dajour Turner, Manuel Hill, Aaron Curtis, Andrew Grzybowski, Roy Walker Jr., Corey Dorsey, Jeremy Arendondo, Niko Donald, Joseph Abad, Jerry Holcomb; Second Row: Glen Johnson, Deaundre Gray, Eric Davis, Christopher Gemelas, James Long, Aaron Baulbitz, Dionte Day, Colton Tucker, Joshua Wells, Mirko Taleff, Devon Deloney, Jeremy Vislosky, Walter Toney; Third Row: Robbie Jordan, Antoine Patterson, Keith Pavlish, Katherine Sadurat, Samantha Kaiser, Brittany Harris, Coach Josh Mehay, Coach Derek Thompson, Coach Mike Megyesi, Brittni Rund, Cody Niles, Derek Shea, Giovanni Jenkins, Ronald Landrum; Fourth Row: Travis Bullock, Joshua Liddell, Robert Melby, Donald Cox, Adam LaTurno, Jarvis Wilderness, Matthew Zeko, James Manis, Aaron Fitts, Stephen Pajon, Deric Faulkner, Christopher Stokes; Back Row: Jordan Chandler, Ronald Crosby, Rommel Harris, Christopher Olsen, Jaquail Washington, Aaron Kaczmarski, Philip Nay, Michael Clark, Joseph Nelson, Kevin O'Neill, Dakari Wilkinson

SPORTS

VARSITY FOOTBALL



Front Row: Anissa Lafitte, Michael Gates, Jermaine Spencer, Matthew Littrall, Brandon Kapitan, George Neely, Charles Campos, Bradley Kurczynski, Michael Krutz, Ryan Stokes, Brian Brown, Drew Dawson, Kenneth Smith, Jarell Wall, Robbie Jordan, Christopher Stokes, Dionte Day, Renee Schmellmeyer, Second Row: Aracelli Lagunas, Jonathan Stoddard, David Bowing, Sean Kavois, Brandon Usher, J'Aaron Bentley, Deven Lowe, Paulo Lara, Colt Contreras, Edward Flores, Giovanni Macapagal, Michael Pirtle, Randall Laster, Eric Williams, Kyle Morris, Brittni Rund, Third Row: Barbara Swittek, Michael Langhurst, David Richards, Giancarlo Macapagal, Daniel LaTurno, Phillip Keene, Armani Blakely, Douglas Spencer, Jason Talbert, Ronneal Williams, Demario Richardson, Roosevelt Williams, Devin Seaton, Michael Martin, Jared Martin, Timothy Ghoston, Rebecca Hoffman, Fourth Row: Brian Maddox-Lee, Jarret Rucker, Kevin DeVany, Matthew Michalak, Daniel Dwyer, Clayton Cooper, Gerold Young, Ayodeji Macarthy, Anthony Curry, Beaudillee McClendon, Rayshon Richardson, Chad Dawson, Evan Parker, Michael Padgett, Kristifer Jankuloski, Samantha Kaiser; Fifth Row: Kenneth Polezoes, Jeffrey Kish, Gabriel Pirtle, Steve Papamihalakis, Robert Wright, William Crosby, James Aldridge, Lastar Jackson, Sherman Daniels, Robert Barnes, Cordero Pollard, Robert Mays, Joseph Lobodinski, James Crawley, Philip Nay; Sixth Row: Ryan Marsh, Vance Gidley, Dexter Larimore, Jonathan Woodward, Christian Beezhold, Cordero Arce, Ryan Relphorde, Dilapo Macarthy, Joshua Raspovich, Nicholas Diehl, Paul Rosa, Steven Burney, Samuel Vesely, Travis Marks, Richard Aleman; Seventh Row: Trainer Kim Hurysz, Assistant Coach Bill Roberts, Assistant Coach Michael Neal, Assistant Coach Mike Megyesi, Assistant Coach Tony Klimczak, Assistant Coach Joe Atria, Assistant Coach Dennis Hamilton, Rio Nance, Brandon Jordan, Steven Lohse, Assistant Coach Zac Wells, Assistant Coach Ian Rausei, Assistant Coach Max Gill, Assistant Coach Ben Parrish, Assistant Coach Derek Thompson, Assistant Coach Tony Bartolomeo, Trainer Sean Hudson; Back Row: Head Coach Jeff Yelton

BOYS' GOLF



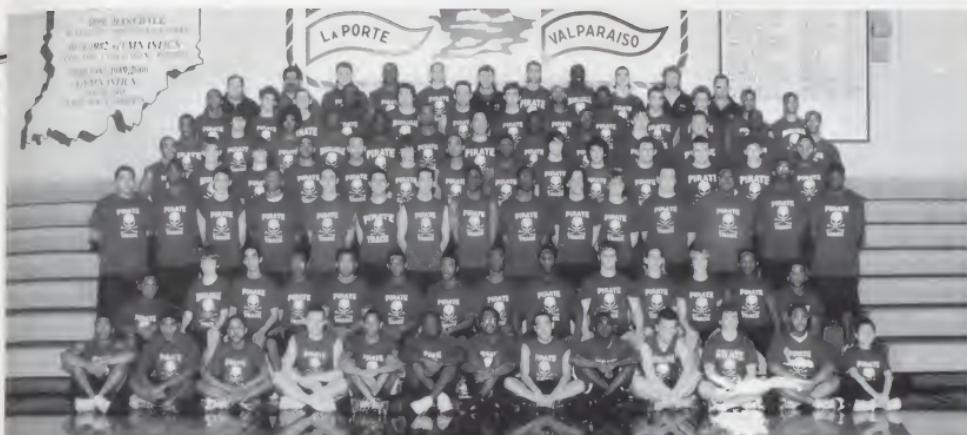
Front Row: Gregory Jansen, Edwin Tirado, Genesis Rodrigo; Second Row: Matthew Neese, Scott Schaefer, Stephen Camiello, Kyle Lundsford; Back Row: Stoten Stofko, Benjamin Breedlove, Dennis Barsich, Jonathan Woodward, Matthew Lewis

GYMNASICS



Front Row: Tiffany Leicht, Denise Coleman, Daniella Rios, Maunya Jacobs, Danielle Bly; Second Row: Hannah Watkins, Arien Taylor, Courtney Deming, Samone Kinsey, Dana Moriarty; Back Row: Coach Nick Roberts, Coach Diane Roberts

BOYS' TRACK



Front Row: Rufus Barnett III, Dion Gober, Gerald Bailey, Richard Reddick III, David Richmond, Darnell Roberts, Jarell Wall, Cameron Jones, Corey Dorsey, Dale VanVleet, Michael Ferguson, Mark Campbell, Sanam El-Quesny; Second Row: Romeo Harper, Matthew Bane, Benjamin Tapper, Carlton Bradley, Ryan Cameron, Justin Watkins, Aaron Pitts, Joshua Walton, Alan Camper, Bradley Kurczynski, Corbin Massa, Michael Gough, Robert Aldrich, Brandon Taylor; Third Row: Ashton Cole, Anthony Carbalajal, Devin Lowell, Brandon Kapitan, Raymond Tinoco, Kein Pavlish, James Reliford, Trevor Releford, Sean Rose, Raymond Duttweiler, Anthony LaPlata, Joshua Liddell, Romrell Harris, J'Aaron Bentley; Fourth Row: Nicholas Whitehead, Seth Binder, Ryan Sobierajski, Harold Turner, Adonnis Gibson, Kevin Wilson, James Hendrick, Armani Blaely, Justin Floyd, Benjamin Spires, James Manis, Brandon Usher, Trevor Bianchi, Seth Harewood; Fifth Row: Lawrence McCoy, Daniel Caruana, Chad Noss, Ronald Crosby, Ronnel Williams, Dwayne Brown, Giankarlo Macapagal, Roosevelt Williams, Gerold Young, Andrew Goralczyk, Jacob George, Dwight Harding, Elijah Samuels; Sixth Row: Jonathan Jackson, Michael Langhurst, Andrew Milenovski, Daryl Ross, Richard Aleman, Raphael Gerodimos, Ken Polezoes, Theodore Brown, James Crawley, Quinn Roberts, Carlton Hoyles, Cedric von Rambert; Back Row: Coach Brian Past, Coach Luis Lopez, Nicholas Diehl, Donald York, Darin Murphy, Coach Jim Johnston, William Kelly, Andrew Anderson, Timothy Sovich, Coach Mike Hoffman, Coach Tony Bartolomeo

GIRLS' TRACK



Front Row: Denise Coleman, Keenisha Ferguson, Ava Meux, Megan Gunn, Lytina Andrews, Danielle Bly, Tiffany Leicht; Second Row: Arielle Anderson, Lindsey Tobin, Kate Tarr, Neysha Thomas, Stephanie Pavlish, Shaunterreah Gates, Eniola Akinrinade, Maritsa Escalante, Chantrice Cade, Whitney Williams; Third Row: Nina Brooks, Raquel Guerrero, Ashley Hite, Brianna Jenkins, Britney Curry, Jacqueline Jefferson, Jessica Boursier, Brianna Ursery, Chasity Burns, Samone Kinsey, Kaitlyn Fleming; Fourth Row: Courtney Weldon, Ashley Woods, Michelle Ross, Taylor Madison, Melissa Warren, Oyindoye Diedigha, Lauren Person, Courtney Deming, Alison Conquest, Rebecca Neville, Paige Patterson, Clarissa Escalante; Back Row: Coach Sean Meagher, Coach David Neville, Arien Taylor, Kayla Strong, Nicole Langford, Coach Joe Atta, Tiera Simpson, Pamela Johnson, Shay Goethe, Coach Bobi Cole, Erica Dilosa

As the nominees for Junior homecoming queen are announced, Junior Blair Mitchell claps for her fellow classmates. Although this was Mitchell's second time being nominated, it was her first time winning. "I was so happy and honored," Mitchell said, "because there are so many girls in the Junior Class who can be chosen." Mitchell was shocked but happy she was chosen.

Making the transition from middle school to high school is a concern shared among high school freshmen. Students who attend high school learn with the fear of being able to effectively remember their location, not making it to their classes on time and getting lost in the shuffle of fears that plague the freshmen as they enter high school.

The excitement of getting a driver's license and the opportunity to finally receive a varsity letter are the milestones which every sophomore hopes to reach. Junior year is surrounded with the excitement of finally becoming an upperclassman. Taking the SAT and attending prom are other firsts during junior year.

Finally, taking the senior picture and recording memories in the senior will is a highlight to end the high school career. The end is surrounded by college preparations and the excitement of graduation.



Working out during the fitness part of gym class, Freshman Danielle Bly said, "The hardest part is running. We run a lot." Bly is one of many students at Merrillville who take gym class throughout their high school careers. Although Bly said she expected high school to have more people, she said she was still pleased with the wide variety of classes offered to students.



Striking a pose at a basketball game, Freshman Jasmine Woods said she enjoys all of the attention she receives while she is performing. Woods said she did pretty well throughout the year. She said, "I just got back into it, the crowd helps me get it back."



What was your first car?



68 Pea Green Nova.
— **Dave Hinkel**



Maroon Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme. It lasted 29 days until the engine blew.

— **Tim James**



A Mustang. It was fast.
— **Sally Williamson**

Julie Allhouse, Special Education
Beverly Ambrosiak, Business
Janet Anderson, Art
Joe Atria, Science
Nancy Backes, Guidance Counselor



Thomas Bainbridge, School Board
Lisa Bank, English
Michelle Barker, Science
Amber Baron, Social Studies
Amy Beckham, Asst. Athletic Director



Carrie Bedwell, English
Maryann Bertram, World Languages
Wade Boise, Math
Janelle Bowen, Media Center Director
Daryl Bowie, Residency Officer



John Bradford, Music
Alan Branda, Math
Barbara Broedel, FACS
Doris Brown, Special Education
Sharlyne Buchanan, Freshman
Academy Aide



Mark Ciesielski, Broadcast Journalism
Patrick Clark, Security
Kim Corman, Special Education
Lori Covaci, Assistant Principal
Patrick Daily, Math



David DeMuth, Assistant Principal
Dwylene DeYoung, Business
Barb Dlouhy, Special Education
James Donohue, School Board
Nancy Draper, Math



Kristi Drozky, Physical Education
Miles Dunccombe, Science
Lori Dust, Physical Education
Susie Duzan, Business
Roger Emig, Music



Ashley Estes Monroe, English
Jeff Fairbairn, Physical Education
Erin Flores, English
Brittige Floyd, Nurse
Rochelle Foster, Daycare Aide



Becky Furman, Substitute
Susan Gaines, Teachers' Aide
Rick Garner, Technical Education
Charles Gleason, Special Education
Amy Govert, Math



If you could choose one era to live in, which would it be and why?



The 70s because it was crazy and fun, not because of drugs.

— *Stephanie Dore*



The future because we will have a better handle on racism and many of today's deadly diseases will be gone.

— *Danny Lackey*



The Renaissance in France because there were new ideas, beautiful art and people who wanted to meet to discuss different things.

— *Mary Borton*

Mark Gregoline, School Board
Ann Guzman, English
Linda Hall, Student Services
Kelly Hayes, English
Lynn Herrera, Treasurer

Don Hickman, Custodian
Anthony Hofer, Social Studies
Michael Hoffman, Math
Jason Hostettler, English
Frank Hudak, Custodian

Sean Hudson, Physical Education
Richard Hurey, Technical Education
William Idzior, Math
John Jennings, Assistant Principal
Darcie Johnston, Special Education

James Johnston, Technical Education
Kathy Jones, Special Education
Sharon Jones, Guidance Secretary
Betty Jordan, Guidance Counselor
Nicki Juskos, Athletic Department
Secretary

Lawrence Jurwicki, Director of Security
Irene Kelsey, Special Education
Nicole Kendrick, Security
Sarah Kennedy, Art
Elizabeth Kenyon, Media Center Director

Angie Knezevic, Custodian
Tony Klimczak, English
Michael Knocke, Social Studies/
Alternative School
Diane Kowalski, Music
Rosellen Kozel, Special Education

Michael Krutz, Principal
Margaret Lain, Physical Education
John Lambersie, English
Jennifer Leek, Math
Connie Lewis, English

David Lincicome, Music
Luis Lopez, Science
Mark Lucas, School Board
Anthony Lux, Superintendent
Bob Mackovay, Technical Education

David Maldonado, World Languages
Diane Mandan, Social Studies
Dawnell Martin, Teacher's Aide
Maryjoan Martin, Science
Mary McVade, Student Data Coordinator

*If you could
make a movie
of your life,
who would you
cast as yourself
and why?*



*King from the Burger
King commercials.*

— Tim James



*Man O'Brien because he
looks like me.*

— Rob Bedwell



*Young Al Pacino because
he's Italian and authentic.*

— Tony Bartolomeo

Michael Megyesi, Social Studies
Lee Meyer, English
TSgt Michael Miller, JROTC
Debbie Monix, English
Sally Morgan, Science

Lafonda Morris, Assistant Principal
Patrick Mulloy, Social Studies
Bob Myers, Band
Gail Nicolini, Math
Bonnie Niksch, Media Services

Andrew Niksch, Business
R.J. Ohlenkamp, Math
Deborah Onika, Science
Rick Parker, Special Education
Brian Past, English

Mathew Pavlovich, Physical Education
Nicholas Petralia, Social Studies
Maryetta Petras, Science
Donna Phelps, Media Services
Deanne Pierce, Math

Jared Pierson, Social Studies
Henry Pimentel, Freshman
Academy Aide
Steven Prather, Technical Education
Terry Pratt, Art
Tania Price, Physical Education

Janis Qualizza, Athletic Director
Maj Guy Ramey, JROTC
Ian Rausel, Science
Shelley Ray, FACS
Melinda Reinhart, Music

Mark Robinson, Custodian
Kathy Rock, Math
Kay Ross, Special Education
Vicky Salyers, Media Services
Bonnie Sanders, World Languages

Kira Scheub, Math
Violet Schmuck, Math
Sandra Scholten, Teachers' Aide
Pamela Schuetz, English
Thomas Scolaro, Custodian

Michelle Scroggins, Student Teacher
Beverly Seaver, Theatre, English
Andrea Seeman, English
Charles Seligman, Math
James Simon, Special Education



What is your pet peeve?



Driving because I have to drive from Kalamazoo,
— **Kassahun Beyenne**



Rude students.
— **Elisha Israel**



Lying.
— **Ben Parrish**



People chewing with their mouths open.
— **Veronica Maldonado**



Rosa Smith, Substitute
Jay Sonnenberg, English
Mark Sperling, Asst. Superintendent
Irene Spiro, World Languages
Debra Staffeld, Math



Scott Staley, Math
Margaret Stallings, FACS
James Stamper, Social Studies
Charlie Stanford, Custodian
Jean Stanford, English



Jennifer Starke, Science
Donna Stath, School Board
Evelyn Steiner, World Languages
Al Stoner, World Languages
Michelle Sulich, Guidance Counselor/
Director



Kimberly Suroviak, Special Education
Melissa Szczesna, Special Education
David Teeter, Technical Education
Ronald Thomas, Security
Derek Thompson, Special Education



Cheryl Ursery, Student Services
Joy Varela, Custodian
Judy Vassallo, Registrar
Melissa Volkman, English
Carol Von Behren, FACS



Zac Wells, Social Studies
William West, Study Hall
Sue Whittleck, Special Education
Debbie Willison, Secretary
Madeline Wilson, World Languages



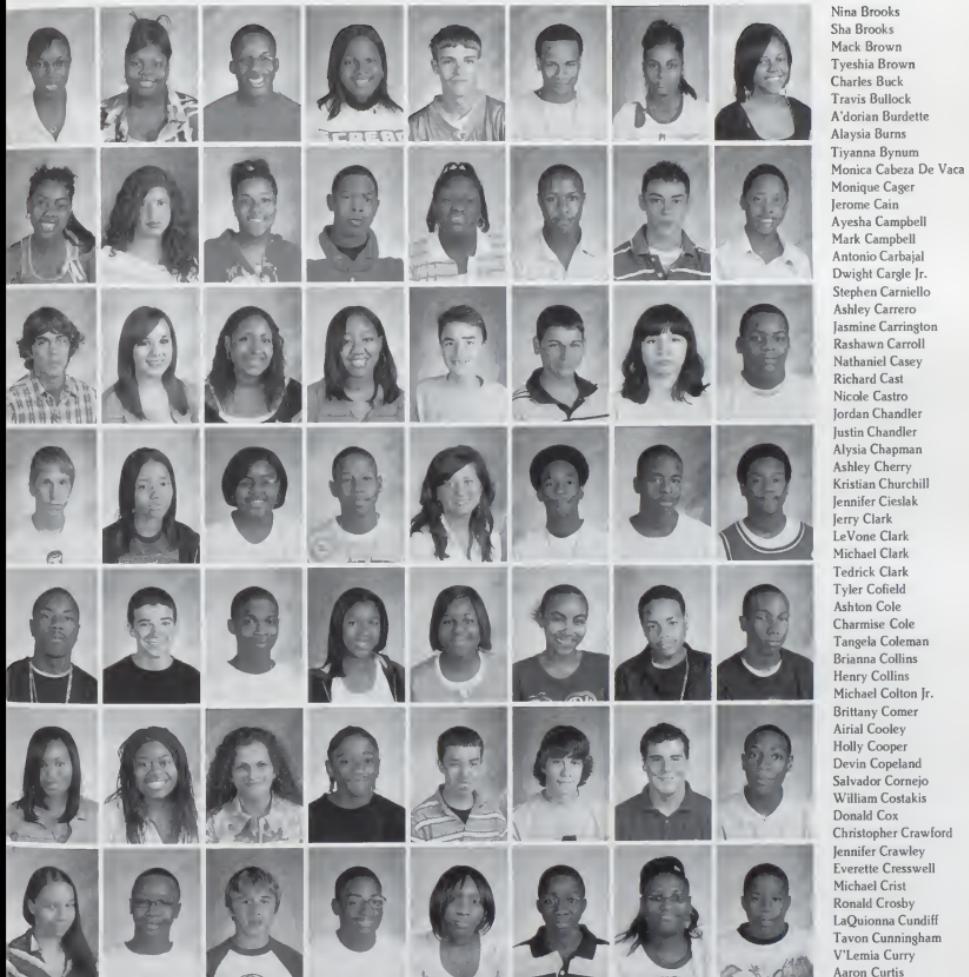
Michelle Wilson, Guidance Counselor
Jeff Yelton, Science
David Zimmerman, Business

Fres

Joseph Abad
 Saeed Abdullah
 Elisha Alamillo
 Kenneth Albee
 Kelly Albright
 Jessica Aldridge
 Jacob Alvarez
 Kristin Alvarez
 Michelle Ambrose
 Andre Anderson
 Brian Anderson
 Jacob Anderson
 Jeffery Anderson
 Ricky Anderson
 Christopher Andomovski
 Lytina Andrews
 Nicholas Anfich
 Jeremy Arredondo
 Yaa Asabere
 Aaron Ashburn
 Larettta Assibey-Mensah
 Reham Baghdady
 Gerald Bailey
 Brittany Baity
 Derrian Baker
 Markell Baldwin
 Kathryn Banashak
 Briana Bandy
 Courtney Bargfeldt
 Sara Barnack
 Anthony Barnes
 Ashley Barnes
 Kiana Barnes
 Tiara Barnes
 Ruben Barnett
 Kelsey Barrick
 Arthur Basaldua Jr.
 Aaron Baublitz
 Denise Beatty
 Christian Beethold
 Raymond Berden
 Lacie Berger
 Justin Bernard
 Brian Bielak
 Ryan Bishop
 Jasmine Blake
 Charles Blanchard
 Brianna Blount
 Ashlyn Bluitett
 Danielle Bly
 Cori Boender
 Kendall Bonick
 Christopher Bradley
 William Bradley
 Alyssa Brindley
 Jessica Britton



hmen



Nina Brooks
Sha Brooks
Mack Brown
Tyeshia Brown
Charles Buck
Travis Bullock
A'dorian Burdette
Alaysia Burns
Tiyanna Bynum
Monica Cabeza De Vaca
Monique Cager
Jerome Cain
Ayesha Campbell
Mark Campbell
Antonio Carbajal
Dwight Cargle Jr.
Stephen Carniello
Ashley Carrero
Jasmine Carrington
Rashawn Carroll
Nathaniel Casey
Richard Cast
Nicole Castro
Jordan Chandler
Justin Chandler
Alycia Chapman
Ashley Cherry
Kristian Churchill
Jennifer Cieslak
Jerry Clark
LeVone Clark
Michael Clark
Tedrick Clark
Tyler Cofield
Ashton Cole
Charmise Cole
Tangela Coleman
Brianna Collins
Henry Collins
Michael Colton Jr.
Brittany Comer
Aerial Cooley
Holly Cooper
Devin Copeland
Salvador Cornejo
William Costakis
Donald Cox
Christopher Crawford
Jennifer Crawley
Everett Cresswell
Michael Crist
Ronald Crosby
LeQuionna Cundiff
Tavon Cunningham
V'Lemia Curry
Aaron Curtis

Dustin D'Asto
Matthew Daily
Thomas Dalton
Shanell Davidson
Darius Davis
Eric Davis
Kyle Davis
Melvin Davis
Milton Davis
Tramel Davis
Tylar Davis
Victoria Davis
Jordan Davisson
Dionte Day
RosaSharon Day
Chantal Dejesus
Ariel Deloney
Devon Deloney
Matthew Demetrakis



Mariah Dennie
Monica Dennie
David Dennis
Victoria DeSoto
Deonté Diamond
Léjulian Diaz
J'nai Dickerson
Jade Dixon
Niko Donald
Corey Dorsey
Ciera Doss
Taylor Douglas
Felicia Dudley
Bianca Earl
Anastasia Early
Kaylon Eaton
Nathaniel Edge
Adrian Edmond
Marcus Edwards
Sanam El-Quesny
Keisha Eller
Catherine Ellis
Wyntyn Ellis
Paloma Escalante
Lauren Evans
Phylisia Evans
Michael Ewing
Deric Faulkner
Keemisha Ferguson

Aaron Fitts

Keyanna Fitzpatrick
Jeremy Fleeger
Kaitlin Fleming
Joel Fles
Robert Flores
Leah Floyd
Mercedes Forsell
Jeremy Fountain
Robert Franklin IV
Cecil Frink

Nicholas Furlic
Laura Garnello
Annalise Garritano
Myleesa Gaston
Christopher Gemelas
Christina George
Zachary Gibson
David Gilbert
Julian Ginn
Jeremy Giebre
Breonna Glass
Joshua Glenn
Corin Gnulka



Meechell Godfrey
Julia Golden
Jacob Gomez
Kevin Goode
Andrew Goralczyk
Terrence Gordon
Deaudre Gray
Kandace Greene
Charles Gresham
Delores Griffin
Andrew Grzybowski
Cristina Guzman
Sabrina Haaland-Ramer
Kayla Hahney
Kevin Hahney
Willie Hall
Torrence Hamilton
Ashley Haney
Justin Hansen
Megan Harms
Romeo Harper
Untonisha Harper
Ashley Harris
Dominique Harris
Rommell Harris
Staci Harris
Arielle Harrison
Robert Harrison
Stephanie Hart
Stephen Hart
Tramaine Harvey
Fred Hayes
Tiffany Headley
Colton Henry
Angelina Hernandez
Erik Hernandez
Eric Herzog
Heather Hicks
Michael Highland
Kerry Highsmith
Joshua Higuet
Manuel Hill
Ashley Hite
Jerry Holcomb Jr.
Dominique Holliday
Melody Hollins
Matthew Hruskoc
Norshawn Hudson
Kelley Hunter
Joshua Hutchink
Evelyn Irak
Ahmad Issa
Demetrius Jackson
Giovanni Jenkins
Natalia Jimenez
Glen Johnson
Hayley Johnson
Jordan Johnson
Kyle Johnson
Lorielle Johnson
Michael Johnson
Samantha Johnson
Zachary Johnson
Andre Jones
Desmond Jones
Keon Jones
Mariah Jones
Mirriam Nicole Jones
Shonae Jones
Richard Jordan
Robbie Jordan
Aaron Kaczmarski

When I graduated from Merrillville back in 1984, it was a lot smaller in size. We respected ourselves and each other and had a great time.

— Mrs. Laura Swartout



High school to me is not just a learning experience; it is a chance for me to meet new people and keep in touch with old ones.

— Lesley Richards

The advice I gave to my daughter coming into high school was to always keep an open mind and gain as many friends as possible.

— Mrs. Laura Swartout



Marlene Madry-Bonilla
Michael Magee
Kreshuna Major
Ruby Maldonado
James Manis

Ronald Landrum
Dustin Lane
Amanda Larson
Crittney LaTante
Adam LaTurno

Joshua Leeks
Tiffany Leicht
Brian Lewis
James Lewis
Viron Lewis

Joshua Liddell
Michael Livingston
Desirae Locascio
Christopher Logan
James Long

Brandon Lord
Dominique Love
Rayon Lovick
Carlos Lowe
Victoria Lucio

Ramon Luna Jr.
Katalin Lundberg
Kyle Lunsford
Anthony Mabone
Dolapo Macarthy



Andrew Kallok
William Kelly
Melissa Kephshire
Ryan Kesler
Heather Kiel

Daniel King
Stephanie King
Kristina Kirova
Kiril Kitevski
Kirsten Koharchik

Patrick Kolbert
Caitlyn Kotul
Melissa Kovach
Zak Kowalski
Mallory Lancaster



Erin Marek
Aleksandra Marinceska
Vince Marquez
Stacey O'Neal Martin
Jose Martinez



Angela Mast
Joseph Matczak
Keshia Mathis
Nolan Mayersky
Matthew Mayo Jr.



Hannah McBrayer
Taylor McCall
Jonathan McGee
Kevin McGee
Rhonda McGuire



Colton McIlroy
Robert McKee
Benjamin McKown
Dillon Meadows
Robert Melby



Lindsay Mendez
Brittany Mendoza
Stephanie Mercado
Ashley Meredith
Ava Meux



Sandy Meza
Nadia Millard
Jordan Miller
Kelvin Miller
Michelle Minard



Donovan Mitchell
Makendra Mobley
Ashley Moore
Desmon Moore
Stephanie Moore



Domingo Mora
Ashanti Morris
Jake Moss
Kaaira Moten
Mia Muhammad



Samantha Muniz
Ryan Murga
Michele Myers
Christina Navoski
Philip Nay

I graduated from Merrillville High School in 1981, and it was a blast. The sports I used to play were powderpuff football, which is not allowed now. I also was a Pom Pon girl.

— Mrs. Mary Manis



When I graduated from Merrillville High School back in 1981, it was full of school spirit. The entire student body walked out after a pep rally and refused to go back to class.

— Mr. Andrew Manis

High school for me is a unique experience with many ups and downs. The advice my parents gave to me about school was just to have fun and make good memories.

— James Manis



What did you fear the most coming into high school?



"Falling in front of everyone. Since I tend to fall and trip a lot."

— Kristin Alvarez



"Having my brother D.J. embarrass me and teachers like Mr. Sonnenberg."

— Dolapo Macarthy



"I thought it would be filled with preps since I moved from New York."

— Sanam El-Quesny

Matthew Neese
Ashley Negrelli
Nicholas Neligan
Joseph Nelson
Ta'Shai Nelson
Rebecca Neville
Napoleon Newman
Nina Nibiser

Cody Niles
Bermon Norwood
Jonathan Nwannunu
Kevin O'Neill
Jovan Obetkovski
Terrence Ojeda
Willie Ollie
Michael Olsen
Christopher Olson
Eric Ortega
Nathaniel Ortega
David Ortiz
Michael Ovanek
Stephen Pajon
Brandon Paliga
Ameka Palm

Markella Papamihalakis
Micah Parker
Nina Parker
Brittany Patterson
Kearia Patterson
Sherie Paul
Jacob Pavel
Keith Pavlish
Tevin Pearson
Joshua Peccina
Christine Peden
Kelsi Pepper
Alexander Perez
Tralonine Perkins
April Perry
Jessica Petalas
Dustin Petersen
Gregory Phillips
Kelvin Phillips II
David Piunti
Samantha Polk
Claudia Ponce
Erick Powell
Brigida Preciado





"Finding my classes."
— Nicholas Roark



*"Getting lost and not
finding my way."*
—Acacia Spencer

*"The tardy policy!
Back at Pierce, I was
late all the time. Now
that I'm at high school,
it's different."*

— Keshia Mathis



Landon Price
Nicol Price
Andrea Reed
Karis Reed-Latiker
Hannelore Reynolds
Kyle Reynolds
Aimee Rezendes
Aaron Richards
Ashley Richards
Lesley Richards
Alyssa Richmond
Darrius Richmond
Vanessa Riley
Daniel Rios
Jose Rivera
Nicholas Roark
Tyler Roark
Dylan Roberts
Kevin Robertson
Tiffany Robertson
Chanae Robinson
Joel Robinson
Lance Robinson
Shedrick Robinson
Ryan Roddy
Michael Roldan
Antonio Ross
Darius Ross
Dominique Ross
Michelle Ross
Brenda Roy
Megan Rutledge
Katherine Sadural
Jeanne Safrahn
Alexander Salinas
Elijah Samuels
Maria Sanchez
Suzette Sanchez
Mariah Sanders
Kelly Sansfield
Michael Scally
Ryan Schafer
Devin Schreiber
Justin Scott
Samantha Serwacki
Jonathan Shannon
Derek Shea
Victoria Sheppard

Tiera Simpson

Kendel Sims

Amesha Smith

Chané Smith

Edwin Smith

Matthew Smith

Robert Smith

Serena Smith

Ashley Sokolowski

Nolan Solomon

Matthew Sorenson

Nickalis Sosa

Zachary Sowinski

Monica Spears

Acacia Spencer

Luv-Joy Spencer

Caitlyn Spires

Terrance Springer

Amanda Spudic

Joshua Stacker

Tyanwa Stafford

Kara Stasak

James Steriowski

Samuel Stewart

Spring Stewart

Emilia Stojova

Christopher Stokes

Ryan Stokes

Brittany Strauch

Kayla Strong

Michael Sweet

Francisco Swetlik

Mirko Taleff

Nancy Tapia

Kathryn Tapper

Kate Tarr

Kelly Tarr

Arien Taylor

AshLynn Taylor

Brandon Taylor

Tremell Teamer

Erii Terry

Courtney Thomas

Neysha Thomas

Niesha Thomas

Paul Thronton III

Lindsey Tobin

Orlando Toney

Walter Toney

Elissa Torres

Cordero Tramble

Cassie Travis

Colton Tucker

Jennifer Tucker

Dajour Turner

Harold Turner

Julian Turner

Katrina Underhill

Gina Uvalle

Nury Valdez

Christopher Vale

Ariel Valenzuela

Joel Van Winkle

Joseph VanVleet

Michael Vasquez

JéQuawn Velez

Jeremy Vislosky

Keith Wachter

Danielle Wagner

Chelsie Walker

Tracey Walker

Roy Walker Jr.



Jonathan Wallace
 Evette Walton
 Herman Ward
 Melissa Warren
 Michele Marshall
 Jaquail Washington
 Joshua Washington
 Shannon Watkins
 Mandy Weis
 Joshua Wells
 Brian West
 Hector West
 Patrick Whelan
 Megan White
 Anthony White Jr.
 Ashley Wideman
 Jarvis Wilderness
 Dakari Wilkinson
 Jamal Williams
 Sarah Williams
 Stephen Williams II
 Blake Willis
 Damion Wilmoth
 Jack Witter
 Nicholas Wolak
 Kadria Woodfork
 Kenneth Woodfork
 Ashley Woods
 Jasmine Woods
 Taryn Woods
 Anthony Wright
 Dwayne Wright

Checking into the Homecoming Dance, Philip Nay and his date Brittany Mendoza prepare to have an enchanted evening. "I had a lot of fun at the dance, and then went broke when we went to eat at Bennigan's," said Nay.

Superheroes Wonder Woman and Storm please the crowd with waves and smiles on the freshman float. Hannelore Reynolds was not only Wonder Woman but also the vice president of the Freshman Class. Amanda Spudic double roles as Storm and the secretary of her class. The Freshman Class tried to incorporate the theme of the dance and the parade by having superheroes playing poker on their float. "It was a lot of fun coming together to build the float and play the games during Homecoming Week," Spudic said.

Taylor Wright
 Kayla Wszolek
 Sabren Yasin
 Michael Yates

Joseph Young
 Jasmine Youngblood
 Matthew Zeko



'Reigned' out

William Andino
 Amir Arshami
 Barbara Benson
 William Byrom
 Christopher Clark Jr.
 Terrence Cooper
 Thomas Cousins
 Leron Davis
 Taricka Dorsey
 Mariah Fondren
 Nolette Gordon
 Devyn Harvey
 James Johnson
 Kristie Kaiser

Jameel Larkin
 Candace Leija
 Anthony Lucas
 Precious Murphy
 Raechel Pietraszak
 Sarah Polak
 James Reed II
 Emmanuel Salinas
 Ryan Smith
 Shauneka Smith
 Xavier Smith
 Jalisa Spencer
 Latasha Taylor
 Dantarius Williams

Sophomore Class

Danny Abbeduto

Anahis Acosta

Ashley Adams

Mary Aeschliman

Pamela Agoris

Dana Alcocer

Antonisha Alexander

Joshua Alexander

Vanessa Alexander

Christian Allen

Karreen Allen

Jessica Alvelo

Bryce Anderson

Prentice Anderson

Kenneth Andrade

Mychal Archibald

Vicente Arizmendi

Chretien Arnold

Ryan Arroyo

Martin Aznar

Freddy Bahena

Natasha Bailey

Karen Balko

Katie Balko

Elizabeth Bandy

Brandon Banks

Zachary Banks

Shaneice Barfield

Ricardo Barksdale

Desire Barnes

Rufus Barnett III

Brittney Barrett

Jeffery Bartow

Elizabeth Baumann

Aelante Lamar Bean

Shakira Bell

Javier Benitez

Kelsey Beshears

Arwen Bhe

Trevor Bianchi

Destiny Biddings

Rachelle Bielak

Shannon Bier

Nicole Billick

Seth Binder

Dustin Blaylock

Destiny Blink

Joshua Blow

Mark Bobowsky

Desiree Bolden

Huston Bond

David Bonilla

Angelina Borgia

Jonathan Bostic

Avion Bournes

Jessica Boursier



mores



David Bowling
Brittni Braddock
Carlton Bradley
Markeith Bray
Tyrona Bray
DéLeon Brazil
Benjamin Breedlove
Cassandra Brigmoni
Quinton Brimm
Gabrielle Briscoe
Lorne Britt
Jasmine Britton
Erica Broaders
Jessica Brock
Darren Brown
Evan Brown
Jasmine Brown
Paris Brown
Ri'Shard Brown
Thomas Brown
Trevor Brown
Eric Buckner
Addison Burke
Nasheé Burns
Amirah Butler
Averiel Butts
Chantrice Cade
Rudy Campbell
Charles Campos Jr.
Roberto Canales
Brittany Carrington
Alvin Carter
Edward Carter
Daniel Caruana
Brian Casady
Alyssa Cast
Tianna Ceaser
Wyatt Chambliss
Caitlyn Church
Amanda Churilla
Michael Cieslak
Erik Cioni
Artis Clanton
Chiara Clanton
Lynda Clark
Jennifer Cleveland
Kelli Climack
Alysa Cody
RobertCoghill
Simone Coleman
Corina Collins
Kyle Collins
Ashley Contreras
Jorge Contreras
Jahwon Cook
Jasmin Cook

Clayton Cooper

Jeremy Coto

Alan Crague

Joshua Crayne

Arianna Crenshaw

Courtney Crenshaw

Britney Cruse

Lacey Cuevas

Antoine Curry

Britney Curry

Bryan Cygan

Marianthi Dalis

Symone Davis

Alyne Dawson

Dionne Dean

Molly Delacruz

Sonia DelReal

Courtney Deming

Danielle Detteline

Kevin DeVany

Nicholas Diehl

Sherry Dillon

Linisse Dixon

Douglas Domikitis

Stephanie Donohue

Curt Dorsey

Richard Dunn

Robert Dyson

Darius Elliott

Samuel Ely

Clarissa Escalante

Darin Farmer

Ena Fazlic

Alexandria Feagin

Chelsea Fejes

Caitlin Fenik

Kela Ferguson

Michael Ferguson

Jaqueline Fernandez

Jesse Fernandez

Michael Fisch II

Alexander Flores

Eric Foley

Charnel Forbes

Jessie Fowler

Amillio Frank

Fanny Garcia

Cassandra Garcia-Brignoni

Jasmin Garmon

Enrique Garza

Melanie Garza

Shaunterreah Gates

Derek Gensel

Idell Gibson

Gregory Glenn

Erik Gnalka

Lashatae Goethe

Elijah Goffin

Amanda Gonzales

Marques Good

Ramona Goode

Amber Gordon

Michael Gough

Marquis Grant

John Graun

Marquise Greene

Brandi Griffin

Anthony Grzywana

Megan Gunn

Steven Hadt

Ryan Halbe

Jonathan Harbin



Larry Hardin
Leslie Hargrove
Sully Haro
Katherine Harold
Anthony Harris
Brittané Harris
Brittany Harris
Mia Harris
Debra Harstad
Danny Hart
Nicole Hatch
Lindsey Hauber
Liane Haughton
Laurie Hawkins
Nataliza Hawkins
Kayla Hard-Watson
Jacqueline Hebert
Eric Heidebreder
Brittany Heideman
Rachael Heiser
Crystal Hernandez
Kenneth Hernandez
Michael Hernandez
Montell Hernandez
Briana Heron
Kylie Herrera
Leana Herrera
Ambrosia Hill
Le'Tia Hill
Anthony Hillsman
Jasmine Hinchen
Joshua Hindson
Joshua Holcomb
Tiffany Holland
Ardis Holmes
Tommy Holt
Corey Holt
Seneé Hopson
Eric Hord
Dujuan Hoskins
Kristen Hoyles
Kristian Jackson
LaSalle Jackson
Sierra Jackson
Justin Jacobs
Kristifor Jankuloski
Gregory Jansen
Jacqueline Jefferson
Brianna Jenkins
Phillip Jernigan
Ashley Jimenez
Brandon Johnson
Candace Johnson
Darrien Johnson
Derek Johnson
Ebony Johnson
Jenice Johnson
Terrance Johnson
Brett Johnston
Jatanya Jolly
Anthony Jones
James Jones
Jillian Jones
Mallory Jones
Nicole Jones
Patricia Jones
Rico Jones
Rita Jones
TaSheena Jones
Tishanera Jones
Walter Jones
Daniel Jutkus





For sophomore Michael Ferguson, attending Merrillville High School is like following a family tradition. Not only his mother Pam Ferguson, graduate of '82, went to MHS, but also his aunt, uncle and even grandmother, who graduated all the way back in '55. "I think it is kind of cool, that it is like a family school," Michael said. Mother and son have shared their different experiences, but especially the differences that his mother told him, was what Michael remembered. "The high school was a lot smaller when she (Mrs. Ferguson) went here. Now she always gets lost," he said.



Most parents tell their children about high school before they start in order to prepare them. Sophomore Amanda Churilla was able to have a little more specific advice, because her father, Bob Churilla, went to Merrillville High School himself, graduating in '80. "My dad told me, that high school is not a big deal. It is just regular school and not that different from middle school," Amanda said. Unlike her father, Amanda was involved in an after-school-activity by playing soccer. "My dad told me, that I am more active than he," Amanda said. "He wasn't in any clubs or sports."



Exactly 38 years after his mother, Sophomore Kristifor Jankuloski will graduate from Merrillville High School in 2008. Based on four years of MHS experiences, Anica Jankuloski has shared lots of memories with her son. "It feels good to go to the same school as my mom, because when she takes me to high school events, she tells me about all the great things about high school that she remembers," Kristifor said. A lot has changed at MHS since Mrs. Jankuloski was a student, and when Kristifor some day has to send his children to high school, the same will probably have happened. Still he said he would like to see his children as future MHS students. "I know the school, and if they get in trouble, I can help them. I love the school, as I love my mother," he said.

Danielle Kacmar
Brandon Kapitan
Jacob Kapitan
Robert Kaplan
Felicia Kedziora



Tyler Kelly
Marissa Kendrick
Andrew Kepchar
Paula Ketcham
Jalyssa King



Samone Kinsey
Michelle Kistler
Ryan Knight
Edward Knopf
Michael Kochevar



Katelynn Kora
Anissa Lafitte
Araceli Lagunas
Kyle Lamb
Amanda Lane



Ernest Lane
Martha Langbehn
Anthony LaPinta
Pedro Lara
Daniel LaTurno



Salaudeen Lawal
Christopher Lawson
Sonya Lazoski
Jonathan Lee
Marcus Lewis



Michael Light II
Natalie Lipp
Joe Lipscomb
Matthew Littrell
Christopher Lobody



Christopher Logan
Desiree Logan
Arielle Logwood
Shelley Lohr
Steven Lohse



Jameea Long
Daniel Lopez
Irene Lopez
Marquan Love
Megan Lovick





Anthony Lowe
DeVen Lowe
Despina Lozevski
Tracy Lucas
Keisha Lumpkin



Gail Macapagal
David Macon
Britney Maddox-Lee
Lucinda Madera
Taylor Madison



Nadia Madrid
Anthony Madry
Manuel Maldonado
Shamira Malone
David Mangrum



Lena Mangual
Nathan Manning
Javaris Marable
Patrick Marrie
Ryan Marsh



Elizabeth Martin
Jared Martin
Megan Martin
Michael Martin
Anthony Martinez



Carlo Martinez
Corbin Massa
Jessica Matheyen
Megan Matt
David Mayberry



Brittney Maynard
Jamille Maynard
Christina McCord
Ashley McKnight
Alexandra McLaughlin



Dayle McNab
Megan McNeil
Kristina McPherson
Danielle Metlovski
Daniel Metz



Matthew Michalak
Carly Mihal
Gabriela Miller
Elizabeth Minard
Larry Mitchell Jr.

Sophomore Amanda Velasquez, whose mother graduated in '87, shares most of her high school experiences with her mother. "Before I started high school, my mom told me to stay away from the economics teacher, because I guess she never really liked that teacher," Velasquez said. They talk about the teachers that they both know. "I really don't like the fact that my mom and I attended the same school because she knows everything about my school, and I would definitely not let my children go to the same high school that I attended."



Most parents do not hide the truth from their children. Sophomore Ryan Sobierajski, whose father graduated in 1977, said his father warned him about the school's size. "The only thing my father told me was that it's a big school, that it's going to take me a long time to know my way around," Sobierajski said. Sobierajski sometimes tells his father about some of his experiences in high school. "I really think it's pretty cool to attend the same school as my father, and I would like my children to attend the same school in the future," Sobierajski said.



For Sophomore Tiffany Holland, attending the same high school as her father is something she is proud of because he was on the football team. Holland's father graduated from Merrillville High School in 1987. "My father and I don't really talk about our experiences in high school, because I guess there's nothing to talk about."



What qualities do you look for in a friend?



"A sense of humor and fun to be around, someone who allows me to be myself when I'm with her. And also a person who is trustworthy."

— Emmalee Troupos

"Someone who is funny, that's the most important. Also honesty and loyalty."

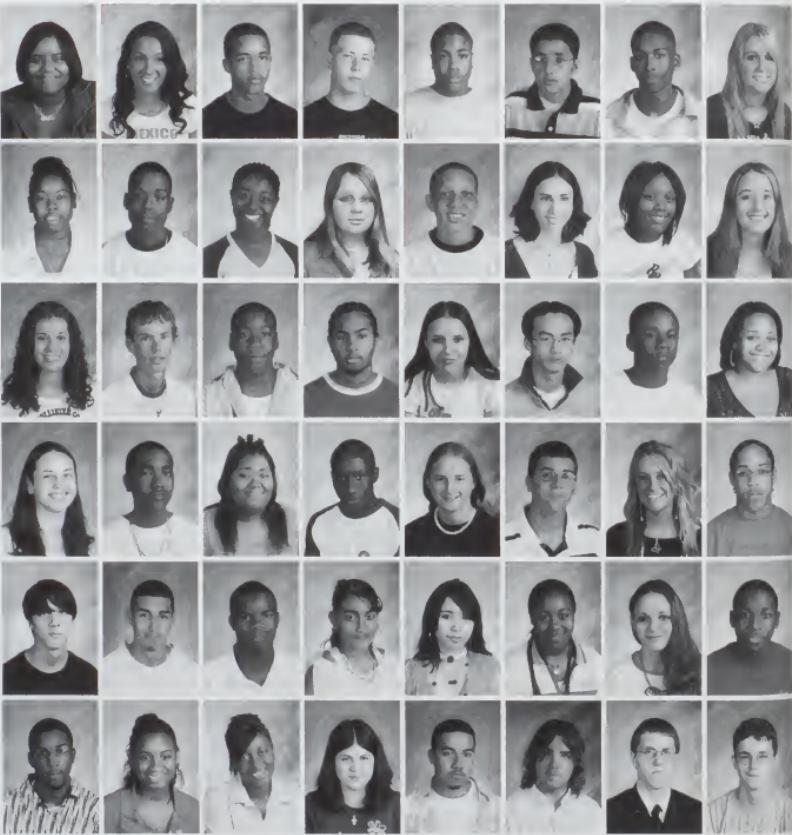
— Patrick Nawracaj



"A good friend for me is someone who is funny and honest."

— Hannah Watkins

Antoinette Moffett
 Ellysa Mojica
 Brandon Molloy
 Kipp Moore
 Nehemih Moore
 Raoul Moreno
 Noah Morgan
 Dana Moriarty
 Ciara Morris
 Garry Morrow
 Morgan Mosley
 Ashley Munchenburg
 Darren Murphy
 Jessica Myren
 Janay Nalls
 Jaclyn Nason
 Kimberly Nason
 Patrick Nawracaj
 George Neely
 Rufus Nelson IV
 Stephanie Neyhart
 Son Nguyen
 Larry Nichols
 Kortney Nicholson
 Samantha Nick
 Darryl Nunn
 Kamary Nunn
 Prince Nzeta
 Kimberly O'Reilly
 Alex Olandezos
 Megan Oliver
 Michael Ollie
 Nathan Oman
 Paul Orozco
 Aaron Pace
 Vanessa Pagan
 Danielle Pangilinan
 Shannell Parks
 Amanda Patterson
 Anthony Patton
 Matthew Paul
 Candace Pearson
 Kiana Pearson
 Rosie Pejoski
 Eric Pena
 Charles Pennington
 John Perkins
 Wyatt Perkins





*"True to the streets.
That's all!"*

— Aaron Swelfer

*"Being trustworthy,
honest and funny is
what matters to me."*

— Chantrice Cade



*"Knowing that they are
always there for you is what
makes good friends. Being
reliable and trustworthy is
very important too."*

— Quinn Roberts



Tammara Peterson
Joshua Phillips
Kadie Picard
Zerrick Pickett
DeAndre Pierce
Caroline Pineda
Nicole Pink
Gabriel Pirtle
Paul Pogorzelski
Corderro Pollard
Ariel Porter
Leland Porter
Mechanor Posey
Christina Postelmans
Jacob Potter
Clarence Powell
Dale Powell
Vanessa Powers
Robert Pozniak
Daniel Prentoski
Jessica Pride
Jessica Pumnea
Andrew Quick
Benjamin Rager
Matthew Rankin
Krystie Reed
Anaise Reeves
Jeffrey Releford
Jimmie Releford
Taylor Renahan
Sarah Richards
Donald Riley
Daniela Rios
Michael Rivera
Theresa Rizo
Quinn Roberts
Cory Robinson
Patricia Robinson
Diana Robledo
Sarah Roby
Jonathon Rodgers
Jasmine Rodriguez
Oscar Rodriguez
Eric Rogers
Hector Romero
Paul Rosa
Donald Ross
Tony Roston



Walter Tucker
Desiree Upshaw
Brianna Ursery
Lisa Uzelac
Nicholas Vadas
Christina Valant
Ricardo Valdez
Raquel Vargas
Katherine Vechey
Amanda Velasquez
Rebecca Verdugo
Demetrios Volikas
Brianna Vranisikos
Brandon Walker
Heather Walker
Kevin Walter
Joshua Walton
Robert Ward
Hannah Watkins
Shannon Watts
Kayla Weeks
Jennifer Weger
Guy Weiss
Courtney Weldon
Jeremy West
Joseph White
Justin White
Shiyaneva Wiley
Brittany Williams
Jamel Williams
Joshua Williams
Ronreal Williams
Roosevelt Williams
Shyrina Williams
Zinzi Williams
Kiara Willis
Katie Wilson
Marc Wilson
VeAndre Wilson
Monica Winbush
MarKeita Woods
Eric Wright
Robert Wright
Tierra Wright
Sarah Yacko
Kyle Yocum
Fanchon Young
Peris Young

Shaquille Young
Wesley Young
Eric Zaremba

Jerimy Zeilenga
Stephanie Zellers
Michele Zerbe

Cara Zimmerman
Branden Zurawicz

'Reigned' out

Cartier Adams
Tekihal Black
Brian Brown
KaNesha Burton
Zurie Clemons
Sheri Counts
Christopher Dumas
Emanuel England
John Fecarotta
Martell Gibson
Princess-Marie Hackett
Deryk Harris

Willie Harris
Erik Hernandez
Gelissa Hill
Alberto Lagunas
Michael Lawson
Joshua Malec
Megan Malo
Michael Marsh
Joshua Miley
Chanequa Norvell
David Parks
Matthew Rezendes

Demario Richardson
Demetrious Richardson
Venus Stewart
Jonathon Sturgeon
Heather Taylor
Antonio Thomas
Taylor Tiller
Chrystal Turner
Aleesha Walker
Jalil Wilson
Nicole Wilson
Ryan Wilson

Jun

Ashia Abdul-Amin

Jafar Abdul-Hafiz

Dannah Abel

Cassandra Adler

Cortina Akinrinade

Cortina Alderson

Richard Aleman

Salahuddin Ali

Antionette Allen

Ebonie Allen

Leslie Alvarez

Jacqueline Alvarez

Jessica Alvarez

Ashley Amey

Andrew Anderson

Arielle Anderson

Martrice Anderson

Valerie Angotti

Aaron Aplin

Cordero Arce

Don Arce

Cortez Arnold

Ashish Arshana Palli

Hope Asya-Broughtoli

Maricela Ayala

Anaceli Babilonia

Desiree Babilonia

Jenna Baisden

Paris Baker

Matthew Bane

Aundrea Barkley

Amber Barnes

Robert Barnes

Dennis Barsich

Cynthia Batista

Floyd Baylor

Jeff Beason

Brett Beatty

Tiffany Begala

Jovette Bell

Letitia Bella

Rudy Benham

Victor Benitez

Jasmine Bennett

Tonee Bennett

Rodney Berden

Dayton-Donnell Bettis

Donald Bhe

Charles Biffle

Christopher Blackwell

Veisha Blair

Chanel Blakely

Sireenna Blas

Jessica Blue

Melisa Bolden

Kyle Bonick



iors



Jaclyn Boskamp
Gregory Branhman
Arie Brown
Jahlik Brown
Jocelyn Brown
Tamisha Brown
Tashun Brown
Theodore Brown
Tysheena Brown
Pamela Brusven
Jeremy Bryant
Mychaela Bryant
Natalie Bryson
Justin Burgess
Christopher Burke
Steven Burney
Jeremy Byrd
Charlesa Calhoun
Michael Cameron
Justin Camisa
Alan Camper
Brianna Carter
Joshua Carter
Krysten Casey
Angela Cast
Deandre Charles
Wen Chen
Stefano Childress
Colton Church
Michael Churilla
Kevin Clark
Hillary Cooke
Kellee Cooper
Katelyn Corman
Lakronna Cresswell
DaVon Cundiff
Leantoinette Cundiff
Cassie Currier
Kaitlyn Dafcik
Cody Dallas
Nome Damjanoski
Mark Daniel
Sherman Daniels III
Melissa Darang
Elizabeth Davis
Gena Davis
Lathay Davis
Drew Dawson
Samuel Dawson
Caitlin DeCourcy
Gregory Demetrikas
Michael Demeuze
Lyndsay Deming
Michelle Deming
Benjamin Diaz
Cynthia Diaz



Bennie Hartfield
Brittany Headley
LaKiea Heard
James Hedrick
Jennifer Heintz
Jasmine Henderson
Ian Hernandez
Jesus Herrera
Colleen Heylin
Eric Hill
Erik Hoekstra-Knight
Rebecca Hoffman
Ashlee Holland
Neven Holland
Rebecca Hoover
Amy Hopkins
Dominique Hopson
Dominique Howard
Simone Howard
Curtis Howard Jr.
Cassandra Hudson
Moligra Hunter
Joseph Husenk
Megan Hutchinson
Paul Hyde
Briana Ingram
David Ivy
John Jackson
Michael Jackson
Asia Jacobs
Maunya Jacobs
Raven James
Natasha Janakievski
Jeffrey Jelinek
Latanza Jenkins
MaRiya Jenkins
Stanley Jennings
Stephen Jewart
Anthony Jimenez
Dwayne Johnson
James Johnson
Jon Johnson
Pamela Johnson
Rachel Johnson
John Johnson II
Alexandria Jones
Cameron Jones
Ian Jones
Jamal Jones
Tiarra Jordan
Shanna Kacher
Zak Kaiser
Frank Kaiser III
Toso Kajimakoski
Nicholas Kaoukus
Jennifer Kasper
Maria Kazonis
Marcus Kearney
Chelsie Kelly
Shannon Kesler
Jared Kiel
Cory King
Jeffrey Kish
Sara Kmetz
Matthew Kochevar
Christopher Koeppl
Anastasios Kratimenos
Bradley Kurczynski
Cody Lagermann
Mitchell Lamb
Rhonda Landrum
Michael Langhurst



*Looking ahead to
your senior year,
what makes you
the most excited?*



"The trimester," — Cortez Arnold



*"Being a senior and graduating."
— Brett Beatty*



*"Being on top."
— Rahdric Dix*

Patrick Laorden
Maha Latif
Jamal Lawrence
Ronald Lawrosky Jr.
Bettina Lee



Daloreen Lee
Edward Leonard
Matthew Leus
Catherine Leventis
Brittany Lewis



Quincy Lightfoot
Christina Lobodinski
David Lobodinski
Nina Lopez
Kacey Loudermilk



Scott Lucas
Angelica Lucio
Cecilia Lum
Auriel Mabone
Giovanni Macapagal



Colleen Madafferi
Brian Maddox-Lee
Miguel Magallanes
Katrina Makarounas
Nicholas Makarowski



Caitlin Malloy
Metodij Marincekci
Craig Marshall
JaMael Marshall
Jacqueline Martin



Hector Martinez
Nicholas Martinez
Robert Mason
Michael Matsey
Stephanie Matson



Christopher Matusik
Jeremy Maynard
Robert Mays
Lawrence McCoy
Larry McKinley



Kristal McLucas
LaChez McLucas
Chrystal McMillon
Ari Meux
Andrew Milenkovski





Joshua Miley
Beth Miller
Jacqueline Miller
Malika Miller
Nadha Mimter



Blaire Mitchell
Samantha Molden
Travis Moore
Laura Moreno
Kennitha Morris



Kyle Morris
Brian Morrow
Ronald Mosley
Markeise Moten
Kimberly Munchenburg



Teresa Munchenburg
Taneesha Myers
Sharne Nelson
Jeffrey Nemcek
James Newman



Quoc Nguyen
Ashley Nichols
Jaudson Nichols
Kristin Nick
Jose Nieto



George Niksch
Latoya Noble
Sean Nunery
DeAndre Nwannunu
Marissa O'Donley



Derrick O'Reilly
Fiyinfolua Obajuluwa
Erica Ontiveros
Austin Orosz
Andrea Orozco



Ryan Orzechowicz
David Outlaw
Tiffany Owen
Danielle Pajon
Kayliegh Pandolph



Alayna Panning
Christopher Papp
Anthony Parini
Devin Parker
Russell Parkhurst

*What are you
going to miss the
most about being
a junior?*



*"Playing football with my older
brother Chad.*

— Drew Dawson



"Freeloading."

— Rigoberto Zambrano Jr.



"Older friends and upperclassmen."

— Yvette Guzman

**Looking
ahead to your
senior year,
what makes
you the most
nervous?**



*"Leaving home and
leaving my friends."*
— Sean Gaffney

*"Getting enough
credits."*

— KuiYanna Gaines



*"Passing my classes
and doing that term
paper I keep hearing
about."*

— Jeffrey Nemcek

Marcus Patikas
Sherman Paul
Andrea Paulnitz
Lauren Payne
Nicholas Pecenica
Ryan Peck
Daniel Pezel
Nena Pena
Erica Perez
Karen Perkins
Lauren Person
Eric Peterson
Aaron Pierson
Michael Pirtle
Jeremy Polak
Kenneth Polezeos
Lindsay Pollard
Alexander Ponce
Amanda Posey
Amanda Powers
Chyna Price
Javier Prieto
Santanna Pruitt
Brian Pucher
Christopher Pyatt
Kimberly Quijano
Rico Ramos
Vanessa Ramos
Levitia Randolph
Joshua Rasopovich
Richard Reddick III
Julie Reitz
Ryan Relphorde
Dalton Richards
David Richards II
David Richmond III
Beth Riede
Aleksandar Ristevski
Darnell Roberts
Faith Roberts
Camalla Robinson
Jeremy Robinson
Keegan Robinson
Latoya Robinson
Michael Robinson
Anita Roby
Genesis Rodrigo
Hector Roldan





"Starting my new life."
— Kimberly Quijano

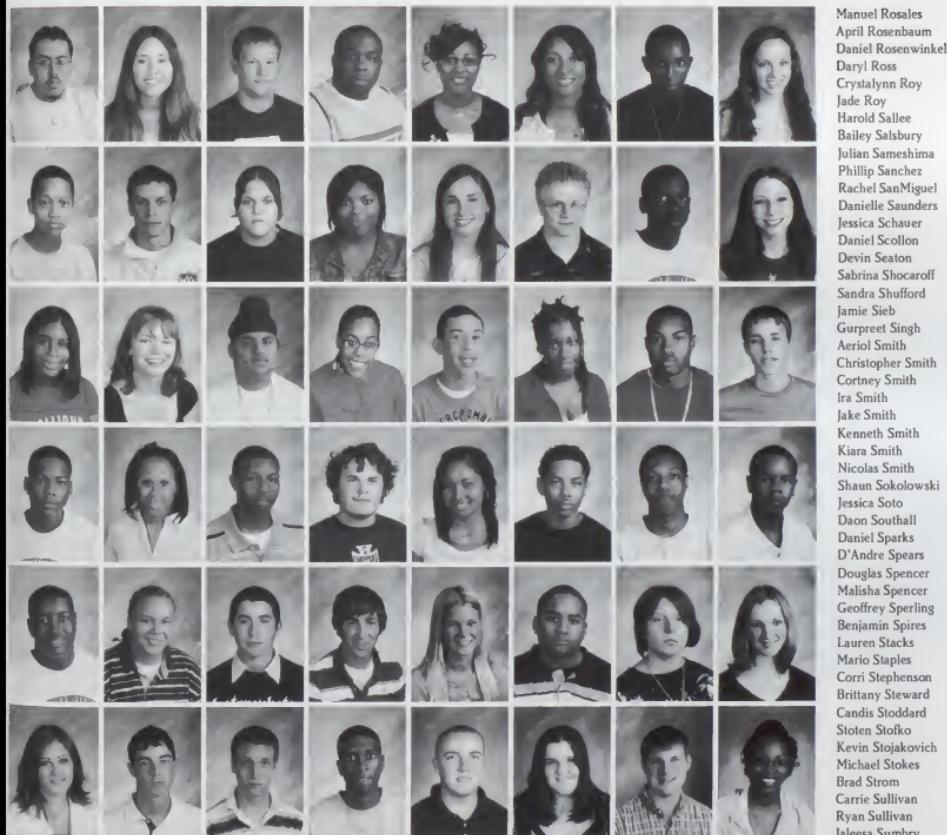
*"Being independent
and doing things on my
own."*

— Brianna Carter



*"Turning in college
applications and getting
accepted."*

— Craig Marshall



Manuel Rosales
April Rosenbaum
Daniel Rosenwinkel
Daryl Ross
Crystallynn Roy
Jade Roy
Harold Sallee
Bailey Shabsburg
Julian Sameshima
Phillip Sanchez
Rachel SanMiguel
Danielle Saunders
Jessica Schauer
Daniel Scollon
Devin Seaton
Sabrina Shocaroff
Sandra Shufford
Jamie Sieb
Gurpreet Singh
Aeriol Smith
Christopher Smith
Courtney Smith
Ira Smith
Jake Smith
Kenneth Smith
Kiara Smith
Nicolas Smith
Shaun Sokolowski
Jessica Soto
Daon Southall
Daniel Sparks
D'Andre Spears
Douglas Spencer
Malisha Spencer
Geoffrey Sperling
Benjamin Spires
Lauren Stacks
Mario Staples
Corri Stephenson
Brittany Steward
Candis Stoddard
Stoten Stofo
Kevin Stojakovich
Michael Stokes
Brad Strom
Carrie Sullivan
Ryan Sullivan
Jaileesa Sumbray

Megan Sweeney
 Nathan Sweller
 Barbara Swetlik
 Ryan Szala
 Hugo Tafoya
 Jason Talbert
 Lee Talley
 Elisha Tanner
 Yessenia Tapia
 Gerald Taylor
 Rodney Taylor
 Tammy Taylor
 Rodney Thomas Jr.
 Edwin Tirado Jr.
 Kamisha Titus
 LaToya Toney

Lauren Townsend
 Farrah Travis
 Byron Turner II
 Derrianne Upshaw
 Brandon Usher
 Lauren Vafadis
 Jessica Valant
 Rebecca VanVleet

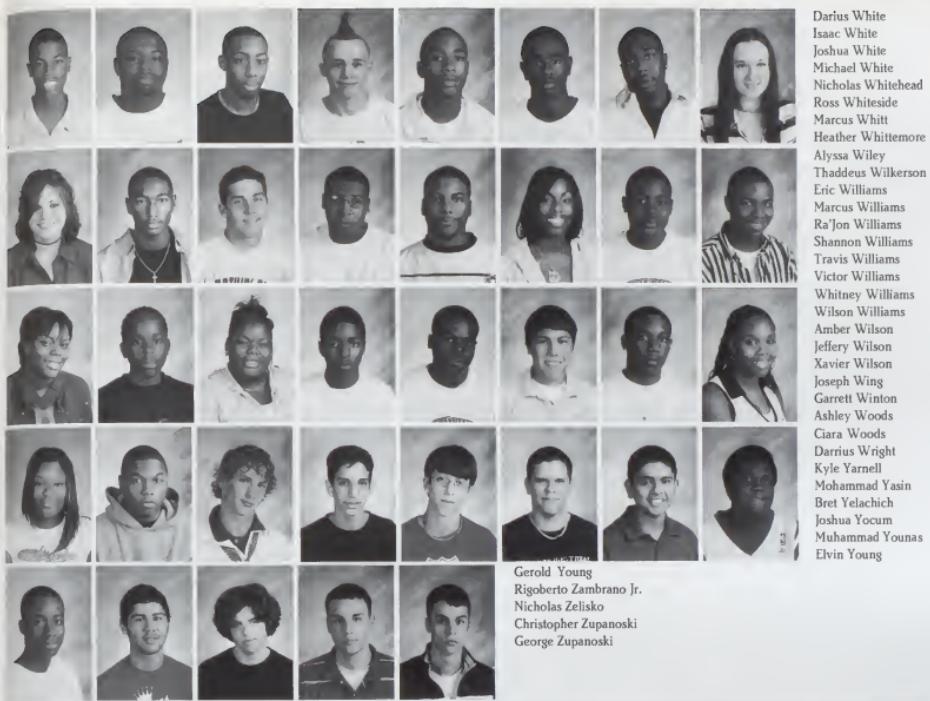
Amy Vargas
 Brittney Vaughn
 Vanavia Ventura
 Samuel Vesely
 Kara Vislosky
 Elaine Vargas
 Desiree Walker
 Ohn'Jay Walker
 Jarell Wall
 Ashley Wallace
 Gabrielle Walton
 Andrea Warman
 Justin Watkins
 Ryan Wengel
 Marsha West
 Nathan Westphal



The JV Pom Poms put on the show for the Homecoming parade. Junior Farrah Travis poses for the camera while other team members entertain the crowd.



Attempting to make a shoestring tackle, Junior Corner Steven Burney goes after Portage's Shane Dixon (3). The Pirates won their fourth game of the season against the Indians, 15-13.



Darius White
Isaac White
Joshua White
Michael Whitehead
Nicholas Whitehead
Ross Whiteside
Marcus Whitt
Heather Whittemore
Alyssa Wiley
Thaddeus Wilkerson
Eric Williams
Marcus Williams
Ra'Jon Williams
Shannon Williams
Travis Williams
Victor Williams
Whitney Williams
Wilson Williams
Amber Wilson
Jeffery Wilson
Xavier Wilson
Joseph Wing
Garrett Winton
Ashley Woods
Ciara Woods
Darius Wright
Kyle Yarnell
Mohammad Yasin
Bret Yelachich
Joshua Yocum
Muhammad Younas
Elvin Young

Gerold Young
Rigoberto Zambrano Jr.
Nicholas Zelisko
Christopher Zupanoski
George Zupanoski



Attending the 2005 Homecoming dance in style, junior twins Markiya Jenkins and MaRiya Jenkins look back to see what other people are doing.

'Reigned' out

Maxwell Akenten	Bridgid Fayson	Amr Latif	Victoria Ruiz
Amanda Milly Alvarez	Eliud Flores	Carl Layne	Rachel Samis
Michael Arizmendi	Orlando Flores	Justin Lewis	George Sanchez
Hope Asya-Broughton	Angelica Garza	Martez Macon	Stephen Scott
Daniel Baker	Odell Gordon	Lauren Mayo	Sabrina Shocaroff
Gregory Baker	Lawrence Gransberry	Evann Meux	Ronetta Smoot
Johnathon Baker	Jeremy Guess	Seville Morris	Joshua Spence
Dorell Bass	James Hanley	Brian Morrow	Annette Stewart
Eric Billick	Carlynica Hart	Larry Mosley	Andrew Strunk
Blaine Bounds	LeVonna Henry	Tanesha Neal	Walter Teal
O'Bryan Brown	Benjamin Hernandez	Reginald Norvell	Leroi Thomas
Serena Burnett	John Heston	Terrell Parrish	Brian Timmons
LaRonn Carey	Jeremy Hunter	Tiera Peacock	Edwin Tirado
DeJeron Coleman	Stacy Hunter	Daminda Perry	Alyssa Torres
Wayne Cousins	Elijah Ivy	Elevon Perry	Marvin Torres
Dominique Dean	Amanda Jackson	Guy Pesaux	Pedro Torres
Brendan Delaney	Marvis Jackson	Alex Peters	Kirsten Vesley
Natasha Djukic	Markiya Jenkins	Juanita Price	Gligor Vranikoski
Tamara Duncan	Luvencia Johnson	Saul Prieto	Shannon Vranikoski
JaTaun Durden	Fennie Jones	Mario Pruitt	JaMawn Wheeler
Joeseph Durden	Ferria Jones	Katherine Quick	Austin Williams
Paul Dye	JaQuita Jones	Irene Rios	Calvin Williams
Terry Larvin	Jermaine Jones	Eileen Robinson	Joseph Williams
Amelia Easterling	Brandy Klein	Delise Ross	Matthew Winn
Eric Elmore	Nicole Langford	Crystallynn Roy	

Before they were seniors





Seniors 2006



Brittany Abram



Stacy Adams
HERO 12



Jennifer Addison



Natalia Lyn Adler
HERO 12; Wrestling
Manager 9-12; Teacher
Aide 11



James Aeschliman



Akinjide Akinrinade
Soccer 10-12



Yvette Alba



Brian Albee
NHS 11,12; Orchestra 9-
12; Soccer 9-12



Celeste Alcantar



Robert Aldrich
Autoshop 12; CAD 11;
Football 9; Track 9-12



James Aldridge
Football 11,12; Football
Captain 12



Jasmine Alexander



Damien Alexius
Chess Club 10-12;



Raquel Allen
Chill Tea 11-12; JROTC
11,12; Teens for Christ
10-12



Robin Allen
Alpha 12; Drill Team 11,12;
JROTC 11-12; Teens for
Christ 10-12



Erica Ugo Alafia
Glee 10-12; Cultural Vessel
11-12; Drill Team 12; E-
Gals 10-11; IHSSAA Area
12; HCHM 12; JETS 11-
12; MAMC 11; MuE 11-12;
NHS VP 12; FutureCare
11,12; V Choir 9; V'ball
9-12; V'ball Capt 12



Lindsey Alvarez
Drama 10-11;
Singing 11; volleyball
12



Gloria M. Alvelo



Luke Amundsen



Torrence Anderson



Britney Andrade
SOSA 9, Drama Club 11;
FEA 11-12; FEA Officer
11-12; FCCLA 12; SADD
12



Diana Ashford



Daniel Baker II
Team 10 or Cadet 9-10;
Track 11



**LaKeisha Lanee
Barber**
Color Guard 9,10;
STAND 9,10; Teens for
Christ 11,12



Cassidy Barner

STAND 12



Kimberly DaIness Barnes

Choral Teams 12; Concert Choir 10; Fall Play 10,12; Revue 11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11



Kyle Bateman



Angela Baumann

Swimming 9,10,12



Justin Belko

Football 9; Football 9,11; Goli 11,12



Alayna Marree Belle

Band 9-12; Jazz Impact 10-12; NHS 11,12; Russian Club 11



Jacqueline Elaine Bella
Band 9-12; Jazz Impressions 10; NHS 11,12



Shakira Best
STAND 12



Zhengyu Bezvin
Russia Club 11,12; Soccer 11,12



Nina Bezvin
Tennis 10-12; Tennis MVP 10,11



Roy Bishop
Chess Club 11,12; Drama Club 11, German Club 10-12; Wrestling 9-12; JROTC 12



Lorna Giselle Blondet
Key Club 10; Spanish Club 12; STAND 9-12; Teens for Christ 9,10



Jerry F. Bokamp III
Chess Club 9-12; Choral Teams 9-10; Concert Choir 9-10; Fall Play 10; Football 9-11,12; Track & Field 9-11; Varsity Choir 9-10; Varsity Football 9-11; Varsity Swimming 9-10



Matthew Braatz
Football 9,10; Teacher Aide 12; Wrestling 9,10



Porsche Bradley
Homecoming Court 12; PNN 12; Student Government 12; Yearbook 12



Kristin Nicole Brindley
Cheerleading 9-12; NHS 11,12; PNN 12; Prom Committee 11; STAND 10-12; Student Government 10-12; WMHS 12



Amanda Broortjes
Concert Choir 9



Alexandria Brown



Amanda Brown



Dwayne Lamar Brown
FCCLA 12; Key Club 12; STAND 12



Samuel Brown
Natural Helpers 9; Quest/Natural Helpers 9; Spanish Club 10



Tashaun Brown



Janessa Elizabeth Veronica Buhsa
Concert Choir 9; HERO 12; Teacher Aide 11



Jone Rae Bult
Drama Club 12; Key Club 12; Natural Helpers 9; Peer Helper 12; Quest/Natural Helpers 10; STAND 11,12; STAND Officer 12, Student Government 11,12



Austin Burke
Autoshop 12; Band 9,10;
Baseball 10-12; Bowling
Team 9; Football 11; Jazz
Impact 10; Teacher Aide
9; Weightlifting
Competitor 12



Justin Burke
Baseball 10; Golf 11;
PNN 11,12; Senior Video
Editor 12



Denise Burney
Diving 9-12; Diving
Captain 11,12; Volleyball
9



**Jennifer Angela
Busse**



Joyce Calhoun
ROTC 11,12



Ryan Cameron
Track 10-12; Track
Captain 12



Edna Carbajal
HERO 12



Braylin Carpenter
HERO 12



Analy Carrero
Key Club 9,12; PNN
11,12; Soccer 10; STAND
12; Teacher Aide 12



Nathan A. Chandler
CAD 11,12; Quest/
Natural Helpers 9;
Teacher Aide 12



Andree Clanton
Varsity Choir 9



Dominique Clark



Tarnika Clay



Charles D. Cole
Academic Super Bowl
10-12; Decathlon Team
10-12; JETS 11,12; NHS
11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 9-
12; Science Olympiad
10-12; Spell Bowl Team
9,10; Super Bowl 10-12



Dejeron Coleman
Football 9



Denise Coleman
Concert Choir 10; Drama
Team 10-12; Drama Club
12; Fall Play 12;
Gymnastics 9-12; Debate
Team 10-12; Gymnastics 12;
Theatricals 12; Varsity
Choir 9; MPAC 12



Christi Condos
Teacher Aide 11



Nina Connolly



Alison Conquest
Eight Letter Award 12;
French Club 12; Marine
Biology 11; PNN 11,12;
Prom Court 11; Soccer 9-
12; Teacher Aide 12;
Track 9-12; Varsity Choir
9; Velveteens 10



Colt Contreras
Band 9; Football 9-12;
Football Captain 12;
Track 9,10; Wrestling 9-
12; Wrestling Captain
11,12



Chad Cooper



Tiffany Cooper
Basketball 9; Guidance
Aide 12; Track 10



William Coria Jr.
Wrestling 9-12



Takoma Cox
Band 9; Color Guard 9;
Dance Team 9; HERO
12; Prom Committee 12;
STAND 10,11; Student
Government 12



James Crawley



Michael Cronshaw



Melissa Crooking
Basketball 9; Key Club 10; STAND 12



Dominique Cudjoe
Basketball 9; Peer Mediator 12; Revue 11, 12; STAND 12; Track Student Manager 12; Track 11



Anthony B. Curry
Basketball 9; Football 9-12; Teacher Aide 12; Track 9, 10



Emily Czakala
French Club 10-12; Key Club 9, 10; Peer Helper 12; Soccer 9-11; STAND 10-12; Student Advisory Committee 9-12; SADD 9; Track 9; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10



Chad Dawson
Baseball 9-11; Basketball 9; Football 9-12; Football Captain 12; Wrestling 10



Hannah Day
Band 10-12; Sodas 11-12; FCCLA 10, 11; Career Center 10; Key Club 10



Blanca DeAnda



Lindsey Degard
Drama Club 12; Homecoming Princess; Basketball 11; Quest/Natural Helpers 9; STAND 10-12; STAND Officer 12



Abigail Dordigha
Aide 10; French Club 10-12; Key Club 11, 12; Nat'l French Test 10, 12; Soccer 11, 12; STAND 12; Track 9-12; Yearbook Sophomore Editor 12



Ashley Yvon Delk
Choral Teens 12; Fall Play 12; Velveteens 11



Erica Dawson
Hero 12



Erica Marie Desoto



Aunia Renee Dillon
Revue 12; STAND 12



Lauren Evelyn Dixon
STAND 12



Lee Dixon III



Noelle Dolton



Joseph Edward Duggins
HERO 12; NHS 11, 12; Spanish Club 12



Dalisa Dumas



Marissa Renee Duncan
Decathlon Team 11, 12; Diving 9-12; Teacher Aide 12; Volleyball 9, 10



Raymond Duttwieiler
Cross Country 10-12; NHS 11, 12; Track 10-12



Angela Mario East
Basketball 9-12; French Club 9; Golf 9-12; Orchestra 9-12



April Johanna Marie Echols
Track 10



Martell Edwards
STAND 9; Swimming 9



Daniel Enghofer
CAD 10-12; NHS 11,12;
Soccer 10-12; Track 10



**Trine Grodum
Eskeson**
Choral Teens 12; Fall
Play 12; Tennis 12;
Yearbook People Editor
12



Darryl Darnell Evans
Baseball 9-12; Baseball
Captain 12; Baseball
MVP 10,11,12; Basket-
ball 9-12; Basketball
Capt. 12; Football 9



Adam Farag
Band 9; Baseball 9-12;
CAD 10,11; Soccer 9,10;
Teacher Aide 12;
Weightlifting Competition
10



Magen Marie Fassolt
Art Club 12; French Club
11,12; French Club
Officer 12; French Test 9;
Soccer 10-12; Track
12



Cara Fejos
Orchestra 9-12;
Swimming 9-11



Dimitri Ferguson



Tina Fitzpatrick
Peer Helper 12, STAND
9-12; STAND Officer
10,11; SADD 10-12



Allana Flock
Marching/Concert Band
9-12; FCCLA 10-12; Jazz
Impact 10; Jazz
Impressions 11; Soccer
9,10; Spanish Club 11;
Teacher Aide 11



Amber Fleming
Drama Club 11,12; Fall
Play 11,12; French Club
10-12; French Club
Officer 12; Kids on
the Block 12; Orchestra 9-12;
Spring Play 12;
Swimming 10,11



Travonda K. Fleming
French Club 12; STAND
9; Teacher Aide 12;
Varsity Choir 9



Tara Florida
Boys' Soccer Manager
12; Teacher Aide 12



Holly Nicole Floyd
Cheer 9-12; Choral
Teens 11-12; Fall Play
12; NHS 11,12; Prom
Comm. 11,12; Revue 11;
Show Choir 9-12; STAND
9-12; Stud. Gov. 9-12;
Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens
10; Vocal Teens 12



Justin Floyd
Cross Country 9-12;
SADD 10; Track 9-12



Jessica Frantz
Class Pres 9; Class Sec
10; Cross Treas 11,12;
Class Gov 9-12; Band
9; French Cls. 10-12;
Honor Soc. FHN 11,12;
Softball 9-12; SADD 11;
Stud. Gov 9-12; V. Choir
9; Weightlifting Comp 10



Eryn Elise Frazier
Math Government 12;
Student Comm. 9-12;
Slope-Dance 10; Varsity
Drama 10; Varsity Government
10-12; Varsity Softball 11;
Volleyball 10



Eric Freeman
Autoshop 12; Orchestra
9-12



Shannon Frey
Band 9; Decathlon Team
12; STAND 12



Athena Frost
Band 9-11; Color Guard
10; Decath. 10,12; Fall
Play 9; Jazz Im. 9,10;
Nspr 9,10; Quiz Bowl
10,12; Sc. Olympiad 9-
12; Spell Bowl 9,10,12;
Super Bowl 12; Vertigo 9



Gilberto Fuentes



Alyssa Fultz
Key Club 10; Natural
Helpers 9; PNN 12; Prom
Committee 11; STAND
10,11; Student Govern-
ment 10,11; WMHS 10



Tamara Alyssco Gaddi
Basketball 9-12;
Bell Ringer 11; Color Guard
10; Cross Country 9-12;
Color Country Captain
10-12; If 9; Track 9-12;
Track Captain 11,12;
Track MHP 10



Bryant Garcia



Rafael Gorodimos
Basketball 9,10; Track
11,12; Track Captain 12



Timothy Ghoston
Football 9-12; French
Club 11,12; Teens for
Christ 10; Weightlifting
Competition 10,12



Adonies Gibson Jr.
STAND Officer 10; Track
10,12



Vance Gidley III
Basketball 9-11; Football
9-12; Football Captain
12; Guidance Aide 12;
Weightlifting Competition
9,10



Romalzo C. Gilbert
Band 9; Basketball 12,
CAD 11; Golf 12; Key
Club 10-12; Martial Arts
9-12; Planetarium 9-12;
Review 10; Student
Government 11,12; Track
12; Wrestling 11,12



Krystle Gill
Class Gov 12; Orchestra
9-11; Stud. Advisory
Comm 11,12; Student
Gov 11,12; Student Gov
Hist. 11; Student Gov
Pres 12; Teacher Aide
12; Pirate Council 11,12



Kierra Shareo Givens
PNM 11,12; STAND 9;
Student Government 12;
Teens for Christ 9,10;
WMHS 11,12



Melody Gomez
Cheerleading 9,10;
Homecoming Queen;
Basketball 12; NHS
11,12; PNM 9,10; Review
Court 11; Yearbook 12



Robert Mario Gomez
Autoshop 11; Building
Trades 12; Building
Houses 11,12



**Jackelyn Nicola
Goralezyk**
Color Guard 9-11; Color
Guard Captain 11; Revue
9



Tiffany L. Gordon
Dance Team 11,12; PNN
11,12; Prom Committee
12; Quest/Natural
Helpers 10; Revue 11,12;
STAND 10; Student
Government 12; WMHS
11,12



Angelique Gruchmal
Orchestra 9-12; Volleyba
9



Raquel M. Guerrero
9-12; Drill Capt
9,10,11,12; CC
9-12; Fr. Club 9-
12; Home Rep; MPAC
9-10; Peer Tutor 9-12;
Prom Queen 12; Track &
Field Capt 11,12; V
9,10,11,12



Justin Guest
Autoshop 11; Building
Trades 12; Wrestling 9-
12; Wrestling Captain 12



Kiara S. Hagan
Drama Club 11,12; Fall
Play 11,12; Natural
Helpers 10; Newspaper
News Editor 12; Peer
Helper 10; Pirate Council
12; STAND 12; Student
Government 12



Elaine Christine Hall
Concert Choir 10; NHS
11,12; Swimming 10;
Teacher Aide 12; Varsity
Choir 9



**Britting LaChae
Hampton**
Color Guard 11; Fall Play
12; Spell Bowl 9; STAND
10,12; Varsity Choir 9



Kacie Alyse Harris
Student Advisory
Committee 9-12



Choryl Harrison



Richard Hartline
Decathlon Team 11,12;
Golf 10-12; Quiz Bowl
Team 12; Teacher Aide
12



Richard Hauber
Autoshop 11; French
Test 9; Weightlifting
Competition 12; Wrestling
9,10



Mary Hawkins
Band 9-12; Decathlon
12; Drama Club 12; Fall
Play 10,12; Jazz
Impressions 9; SOSA
8,10



Cheitra Hendley



Breana Hendrix
Varsity Choir 9; Review
12

**Perry J. Herzog, Jr.**

Autosport 11,12; Band 9,10; Jazz Impressions 9,10

**Britney R. Hill**

Color Guard 10; Dance Team 11,12; FCLCA 12; Key Club 10,12; Revue 11,12; Spanish Club 12; STAND 12; Student Government 12

**Gregory Hill**

Basketball 9-12; Basketball Captain 11,12; STAND 12

**Daniel Leroy Holley**

Band 9-12

**Cambria Hollingsworth**

Cheer 9-12; Cheer Capt 12; C Gov 12; HC Football 12; Mat Bio 9; NHS 11,12; Peer Med 9-12; P Coun. 12; Prom Chair 11,12; Q & S 12; Softball 9; STAND 11,12; S Gov 11,12; T Aide 11; V Choir 9; YB Sen Editor 12

**Ebony Holly**

Dance Team 9; Key Club 9,12; Orchestra 9-12; Spanish Club 12; STAND 9,12; SADD 12; Student Government 12; Track 9

**Sharon Houston**

Basketball 12

**Gina Howard**

Art Club 10-12; Basketball 9-12

**Carlton H. Hoylos**

Band 9,10; Student Government 11,12; Track 9-12

**Melissa Hubbell**

Dance Team 10; Drama Club 9; Key Club 9; NHS 11,12; Varsity Choir 9; Yearbook Lifestyles Editor 12

**Lauren Huish**

Dance Team 10; Drama Club 9; Key Club 9; NHS 11,12; Newspaper 11; Quill and Scroll 12; Yearbook Lifestyles Editor 12

**Ty-Andrea Hunter**

Football 9

**Bryce Jackson****Jasmine Jackson****LaStar Jackson Jr.**

Basketball 9; Basketball Captain 9; Football 9,12; Guidance Aide 11

**Andrew Janusz**

Autosport 12; Weightlifting Competition 12

**Elliott Johnson**

Color Guard 10-12; Decathlon 11,12; Gymnastics 10-12; Gymnastics Coach 10,11,12; NHS 11,12; Disk Goat 10,11,12; Science Olympiad 10-12; Super Bowl 11,12

**Brittany Jones**

Choral Teens 11; Drama Club 10-12; Fall Play 11; FC Honors 11-12; Gymnastics 7,9; Thespians 7,9; NHS 11,12; Chor 5; Mockumentary 11; Vocal Teens 11,12

**Candace Marie Jones**

ROTC 11,12; Teacher Aide 12; Teens for Christ 9-12; Yearbook 12

**Ed Jones**

Art Club 10; Autosport 12; Drama Club 9; JETS 10-12; Key Club 9; Martial Arts 10; PNNS 10-12; Sc. Olympiad 10; Sen. Video Editor 10,12; STAND 9; T. Aide 12; WMHS 10-12

**Jessica Lynn Jones**

Key Club 9,12; Softball 10,11; Spell Bowl 12; STAND 9; Yearbook Faculty/Staff Editor 12

**Khameice Jones**

Band 9,10; Color Guard 11,12; Color Guard Captain 12; Fall Play 11; Quest/Natural Helpers 10; Spell Bowl 11,12; STAND 12; Super Bowl 12; Teens for Christ 12; YB People's Comm 12

**LaReshea Renae Jones**

Am. Clip 10; News Leader 12; NSSA 10,12

**Tatiana Jones**



Brandon A. Jordan
Autoshop 11,12; Band 9,10; Football 9-12;
Weightlifting Competition 11,12



Samanthah Kaiser
Concert Choir 10-12;
Student Government 12;
Football Student Manager 11,12; Varsity
Choir 9; Yearbook Freshman Editor 12



Zachory Kandorf
PNN 10-12



Rania Kaouki
JETS 11,12; NHS 11,12;
FHS Secretary #2; Plate
Council 12; Quill and
Scroll 12; Yearbook Photo Editor 12



Katherine Jene Kapler
C Gov 11,12; Choral
Teens 10-12; Fr. Club 10;
JETS 11,12; NHS 11,12;
NHS Pres 12; Prom Comm 11-12; Revue
11,12; STAND 10; Stud
Gov 11,12; Swim 9,10; V
Choir 9; V Teens 11,12



**Irene Cristie
Karagianidis**
Peer Helper 12; Soccer
10



Sean Kavois
Band 9,10; Cross Country 10; Football 9,11,12; Revue 9;
Teacher Aide 12; Track 9,10



Tiffany Kodzioni
Band 9,10; NHS 11,12;
Softball 9-12



**Phillip Matthew
Koeno**
Basketball 9-12; Baseball
9,11,12; Fball 9-12; PNN
11,12; Prom Court 11;
Senior Video Editor 12; T
Aide 12; Weight Comp
10-12; WMHS 11,12



Ryan Kemp
Autoshop 12



Courtney King
Band 9; Football 9



Charlotte R. King
Class Government 12;
Drama Club Officer 12;
SADD 12; Student Government 12



Ashley Kistinger
Key in the Block 11,12



Dejan Kitovski



Brandy Klein



Ve'Lis Knight
Color Guard 10,11;
French Club 10; JROTC
11,12



Eli Kookich
Aktion Club 11,12;
Special Olympics



Heather Kovach
Teacher Aide 12; Varsity
Choir 9



Niki Michelle Kraska
C Vpres 9,11,12; C Treas
10; Choir 9-12; Dance 9;
Drama Club 9-12; Drama
Off 12; Fall Play 10-12;
JETS 11,12; NHS 11,12;
P Med 9,10; Prom Comm
11,12; Q Bowl 11,12;
STAND 10; S Gov 9-12;
Thes 10-12; Thes Off 12



Christina Krafimenos
Concert Choir 10-12;
Drama Club 12; Fall Play
12; Varsity Choir 9



Jonathan A. Kucik
Baseball 9-12; CAD
10,12; Football 9,10



Britney LaBroi
STAND 12; Teacher Aide
11,12



Nicole Langford
French Club 12; Track 12



Paulo G. Lara
Band 9; Football 11,12;
Spanish Club 11;
Teacher Aide 12

**Dexter Larimore**

Basketball 11; Eleven
Varsity Letters; Football
9-12; Tenorist Aide 12;
Track 9-11; Track
Captain 12; Wrestling 9-
12; Wrestling Captain
11,12

**Elizabeth Lashenik**

Concert Choir 10; Golf 9-
12; Varsity Choir 9;
Velveteens 10

**Amr Latif**

Basketball 9

**Mogen Loo**

Art Club 9; C Pres 10-12; C Sec
9; Choir 9-12; Drama Club 9-12;
Drama Off 12; Play 10-12;
FCCLA 10; JETS 11,12; Kids/
Bible Study 10-12; Leadership Club
9,10; P.Med 9,10; Prom Comm.
11,12; Revue 10-12; S'ball 9,10;
S.Gov 9-12; Teens for Christ 9-
12; Thes 10-12; Ties Off 12;
V'ball 9; Weight Comp 9

**Tamika Loo****Robert Lewis****Courtney Alexandria
Liddell**

Color Guard 11; Fall Play
12; Spanish Club 12;
Spell Bowl 10; STAND
10,12

**Joseph Lobodinski**

Basketball 9; Football 9-
12; Track 12

**Cornell Lockett****David Carlos Lopez**

Academic Super Bowl
10-12; Band 9-12; Jazz
Impressions 9; Jazz
Impact 10-12

**Krystle Louis****Samantha Lowe**

FCCLA 11; JROTC 12;
Key Club 11; Teacher
Aide 12

**Cvela K. Lnenicka**

NHS 11,12; Guidance
Aide 12; Peer Mediator 9-
12; Quest/Natural Helpers
9; STAND 9,10; Teacher
Aide 12; Valentine's
Dance Queen 10; Varsity
Choir 9

**Callie Lucas**

Cheer 9-12; C Gov 10-12; Fr
Club 10-12; HC Fball 12;
HC B'ball 11,12; Homecoming Queen
12; Interact Club 12; Leadership Club
12; NHS 11,12; PNN 11;
Prom Comm 11,12; Tennis
9-12; Tennis Capt 11,12; V
Golf 9; V'ball 9-12; V'ball
Capt 12; Weight Comp 10;
WMHS 11; YB Ad Editor 12

**Anthony Lucente**

Autoshop 12; ROTC 12;
Track 9-11

**Robert DiCarlo**

German Club 10; Tri
10,11; ROTC 11,12

**Todd Lunsford**

Autoshop 12; Fall Play
11; ROTC 11,12

**Giankarlo Roales
Macapagal**

Football 10-12; Teach
Mfa 12; West Seattle
Depotball 12

**Doji Macarthy**

Basketball 9; Football 9-
12; Prom Court 11; Teens
for Christ 9,10;
Weightlifting Competition
10

**Christopher Madison**

Autoshop 12; CAD
11,12; Football 9,10;
Orchestra 9, Track 9

**Natalie Joy Madrid**

Concert Choir 9; STAND
10,11,12; Stand Officer
12; Swimming 9; Teacher
Aide 12

**Erica La'Shay MaGeo**

Color Guard 10; Drill
Team 11,12; Peer Helper
9; ROTC 11,12

**Jazmine Magee****Kyran Magee**

Track 11,12



Natasha Manzella



Travis Marks
Football 12; Wrestling
11,12



Krystal Elaine Marshall
C Gov 12; FCCLA 12; V-
Club 9-12; Key Club 10-
12; Key Club Off 10; PNN
11,12; STAND 9,10,12;
SADD 12; S Gov 12; Aide
12; Teens for Christ 10,11;
WMHS 10-12



Tyonna Marshall



Robert Benjamin
Martin
Band 9-12; Chess Club
9-12; Decathlon 12;
Guitar Club 9,10; NHS
11,12



Fernando
Maynawthers
Building Trades 12; CAD
9; Football 9,10



Beaufilio McLendon
Baseball 9-12; Football
9-12; MPAC 12; Prom
Court 11; Prom King 11;
Weightlifting Competition
10,11



Colin McDonald
Baseball 9; Concert Choir
9; Drama Club 9-12; Fall
Play 11; Fourth 9;
Revue 9



Victoria McGee
Concert Choir 10; Spring
Play 9; Mr. Teacher Aide
11; Varsity Choir 9



Lindsey Mellroy
Concert Choir 12



Simone McKinney



Jacob McKown
Autoshop 11,12; CAD
10,12



Courtney McDonald
Art 9-12; Color
9-12; FAND 9;
Government
9-12; Track
9-12



Brittany Merritt
HERO 12; Peer Helper
12



Derek Midkiff
Band 9; Drama Club 10-
12; Fall Play 11; Prom
Court 11; Spring Play 10;
STAND 9-12; Student
Government 11;
Thespians 11,12; Track
9; Wrestling 9



Jeff Mihal



Courtney Miller
C Teens 11,12; Drama
Club 10-12; Fall Play 10-
12; Key Club 9; Revue
11,12; Spring Play 12;
Boys' Tennis Mngr 9-12;
Tennis 9-11; Thes 11,12;
V Choir 9; Velveteens 10;
V Teens 11,12



Jermal Chon'tray
Miller
Band 9,10; Drama Club
9,10; Drill Team 11,12;
Play 9-12; JROTC 11,12;
Model Trp 11,12; Revue
9-12; Soccer 9; STAND
9-12; Tennis 9



Lewis Miller
Cross Country 11,12;
Diving 11; Swimming 12



Sidney Miller



Daniel Minskey



Samuel Minskey
Baseball 9; CAD 11;
Martial Arts 9-12



Joseph Mireles
Band 9; Chor 9,10;
Drama Club 10-12; Fall
Play 10-12; Kids/Block
12; Mar Bio 10; PNN 12;
Revue 9; Sen Vid Editor
12; Soccer 9; Spring
Play 10-12; STAND 9-12;
Thespians 10-12; Track 9



Sheena Raquelle
Alexandra Mitchell
Choral Teens 11,12;
Drama Club 10-12; Fall
Play 10-12; Revue 11,12;
Spring Play 12;
Thespians 11,12; Varsity
Choir 9; Velveteens 10



Victor C. Mobley II
Autoshop 11; Career
Center 11; Pin Pal 10;
Teacher Aide 12; Track 9



Mario Montemayor II



Allison Moore
Newspaper 11,12; Varsity
Choir 9



Brittney Moore
Basketball 9-12;
Basketball Captain 12



Seville Morris



Jervon Mosley



Beverly Munchenburg
Varsity Choir 9; Yearbook
Juniors Editor 12



Cheryl Munchenburg
CAD 11,12; Student
Government 10-12;
Student Government
Officer 11,12; Teacher
Aide 10



Steven Muveaski



Rio Harvey Nance
Football 11,12; Track
11,12



Breonnay Nelson



Leigh Anna Nelson
Color Guard 9; Dance
Team 9,11,12; Dance
Team Captain 11; NHS
11,12; Peer Mediator 9;
Prom Committee 12;
Student Government 12;
Teacher Aide 12



Daniel A. Nieman II
Choral Teens 10-12;
Concert Choir 9; Drama
Club 9-12; Fall Play 9-12;
NHS 11,12; Revue 11;
Spring Play 10-12; STAND
9-12; Thespians 10-12;
Vocal Teens 10-12;
Yearbook 12



Dustin Nikolic
Autoshop 11 CAD 10-12



Angelica Joanelle Nunn
Color Guard 10,11; Color
Guard Captain 11; Drama
Club 12; Kids/Block 11,12
Peer Mediator 10-12; Sen
Bowl 11,12; STAND 12;
Super Bowl 12; Teens for
Christ 12



Aimée Urteaga
Band 9-12; Art 11,12;
Music 11,12; NHS 11,12;
Science Olympiad 12



Gerardo Ortiz Jr.



Michael Padgett
Band 9; Baseball 10-12;
Football 9-12; Key Club
9-12; Leadership 10-12;
Track 9; Varsity Football
10-12; Varsity Soccer
10-12; Varsity Softball
10-12; Yearbook 12



Jamie Palomo
Building Trades 11,12;
Football 9; Wrestling 9,10



Steve Papamihalakis
CAD 10,12; Football 9-
12; Track 9; Weightlifting
Competition 11,12



Jessica Parker
Autoshop 12; Bowling
10-12; Bowling Captain
12; French Club 10,11;
Orchestra 9-12; Spring
Play 10



Paige Patterson
Choral Teens 11,12; Fall
Play 12; Key Club 11;
Spring Play 12; STAND
12; Track 11,12; Varsity
Choir 9; Velveteens 10;
Volleyball 9,10



Stephanie Pavlish
C-Block 11-12; Junior 9-11;
Drama Rep 11-12; JE 11-11;
MMTC 12; NHS 11,12;
Adult 12; Track 11,12; Track
Chair 12; Varsity 10-12;
Volleyball 9-12; Weight
Comp 9-12; Weight Comp
Cheer 9,11,12; YB Copy/
Rep Editor 12



**Tierra Monique
Peacock**
STAND 12



Richard Pennington
Football 9,10



Jared Thomas Perkins
Choral Teens 10; Concert
Choir 9; Fall Play 10,12;
Teacher Aide 12; Tennis
9-12; Tennis Captain 12;
Vocal Teens 11,12;
Yearbook Academic
Editor 12



Brittany Party
Basketball 9; Key Club
12; Soccer 9-12; STAND
12



Lawron Meshall Porry
Academic Super Dawgs
Drama Club 9,10 Fall
Play 10; Key Club 12;
NHS 11,12; Symphonic Club
11; Thespians 9-12



Roger Pesneaux
Basketball 10; Aide 10



Lucas E. Phillips III
CAD 10-12; JETS 11,12;
Science Club 9-12;
Science Club President
11,12; Soccer 9



Sean Powell
CAD 11; Revue 11



Ryan Pozernacki



Joshua Puzey
Aut. since 11,12; CAD 9;
Golf 11,12; Tennis 9-11



Natalie Ragon
Swimming 11



Renee Ragon
Concert Choir 9,10;
Swimming 9-12;
Volleyball 9,10



Cedrie Von Rambert II
Football 9,10; Science
Olympiad 12; Track 9-12;
Track Captain 12;
Weightlifting Competition
9; Wrestling 10-12;
Wrestling Captain 12



Diana Ramirez
Judo Club 11-12; Key
Club 9-10; Peer Mediator
9-12; STAND 12



Genesis Randolph
Bowling 12; Chess Club
12



Samantha Ratley
IU Honors Program 11;
NHS 11,12; Varsity Choir
9; Velveteens 10



Jacquelyn Reed



Brian Roos
Homecoming King
Basketball 12; Teacher
Aide 12



Rayshon Richardson
Football 10-12



Erica Kay Richmond
Basketball 9,12; Soccer
9-12; Spanish Club 12;
STAND 12; Track 9,12



Broanna Riley



Melissa Rivera
Orchestra 9-12



Manuel Riveron Jr.
Band 9; Fall Play 11,12;
Tennis 9



Danielle Roberts
Dance 11,12; Drama
Club 12; Fall Play 11,12;
NHS 11,12; Peer Helper
12; Peer Mediator 9-12;
Revue 10,12; STAND 10-
12; STAND Officer 12;
Student Advisory
Committee 11,12



Earl Robinson



Jarryn Janae'

Robinson

Band 9,11; Dance Team
12; NHS 11,12; Revue
STAND 9-12; Student Government 12



Aaron Rodriguez



Alexandria Rodriguez



Vasiliki Nicole Rousis

French Club 9-12; Key Club 10,11; Marine Biology 9,10; Peer Helper 12; Soccer 9-12; Soccer Captain 12; Track 10



Bryan D. Ruder

Baseball 9; CAD 10,11; MPAC 12; Peer Helper 12; Soccer 9-12; Soccer Captain 12; Track 10



Rachael Rudolph

Softball 9-12; Volleyball 9



Steven Ruschak

Orchestra 9-12



Elizabeth Ryan

Band 9; Dance Team 10.
STAND 12



Joanna Amalia Salinas

Key Club 9,10; Newspaper 11; Peer Helper 12; Quill and Scroll 11,12; Yearbook 12



Sayo Carneshima

FCCLA 9; French Club 12; ROTC 12; STAND 12; Teacher Aide 12



Adrian Sanchez

Football 9,11



LaRonya Sanders

Career Center 11,12;
Peer Helper 9,10; Peer Mediator 9,10; STAND 10



Jessica Gavin

Band 9-11; Color Guard 9-11; Color Guard Captain 11; Tennis 9-12; Winterguard 9,12



Scott Schafer

Building Trades 12; CAD 9; Golf 9-12



Renee Lynn Schmollmeyer

Ath Aide 12; Con Chor 7-12; Quest/Nat Helpers 9; Sball 10-12; SADD 11,12; S'ball Mngr 9; Trainer - All Sports 9-12; T Aide 11,12; V Choir 9



Tara Schreiber

Art Club 9; HERO 12;
Martial Helper 10
Kinest/Natural Helpers 10; Soccer 9-11; Track 9-12



LaDarra Ruschelle Salmon

Farms 9; College Counseling 9-10



I. Ruby Serrano

SOSA 10



Nicole Silbersdorf

Student Government 12;
Teacher Aide 12



Amber Simpson

Career Center 11,12



Jaspreet Singh

Key Club 12; STAND 12



Jaqueline Kate Smith

SADD 11



Jason Thomas Gneidewine

Track 11



Blake Sohocki

Concert Choir 9; SOSA 10; Spring Play 10;
STAND 11,12;



Ryan Sorenson
Autoshop 12; Football 10



Shakeira Chancee' Loto
Cheerleading 12;
Concert Choir 12;
Student Government 12



Timothy Duvall
Football 9,10; Track
10-12



Zachary Sperling
Football 9-12; Newaling
9,11-12; Marine Biology
10-12; Soccer 10;
Teacher Aide 12



Scott Stephan
Band 9-12; Chess Club
9,11; Diving 9; Drumline
10-12; Ger Club 9-11;
Ger Club Off 10; Manne
Bio 9-12; MPAC 12; Swim
9-12; Swim Capt 11,12;
Track 9-10; Winter Drum
Line 10



John Stoddard



**Mercedes S.
Strickland**
Color Guard 9; Dance
10; Drama Club 9,10;
Key Club 9; Modeling
Troop 11; Nat Help 10;
Revue 9-12; STAND 9-
12; Teens for Christ 9-12



Mladen Szalecki
Autoshop 12; CMT 12;
French Club 11; Soccer
10-12



Dana Mario Sylva
Civ. Teach 9-12; Con Choir
10; Drama 9-12; Fall Play
9-10; Peer Med. 9;
Revue 9,10; Show Choir
11,12; Span Club 12;
Spring Play 10;
Thespians 10-12; V Choir
9; Velveteens 11



Christopher Szala



Robert G. Tate III
Peer Helper 12



Tanoqua A. Taylor
Career Center 11,12;
Varsity Choir 9



Tiffany Lee Taylor
Dance Team 9-12;
Ball 10-11; STAND 9;
Flag Flying Competition



Tonique Tearnor
FCCLA 12; Key Club 12



Ashley Thomas
Cheerleading 9-12; PNN
11,12; Senior Video
Editor 12; Softball 9-12;
STAND 10,11; SADD 11;
Student Government
11,12; Varsity Choir 9;
WMHS 11,12



Brian Timmons Jr.



Irene Tinoco
Orchestra 9-12; PNN 11



Myron Tinsley



Marisol Tirado
Spanish Club 10



Pedro Torres



Donald Toth
Choral Teens 10-12;
Concert Choir 9; Drama
Club 9-12; Revue 9,11;
Spring Play 10;
Thespians 11,12; Vocal
Teens 11,12



Ashley Traina
NHS 11,12; Newspaper
Editor 12; Soccer 9;
Softball 9-11; Yearbook
12



Michael Trajkovski
Football 9



Lindsey Marie Trock
Boys' Tennis Mng 12;
Chrl. Club 10-12; Fall
Play 10-12; NHS 11,12;
Revue 11; Show Choir
10-12; S'ball 9; Tennis
10-12; V Choir 9; Vocal
Teens 11,12; YB
Performing Arts Editor 12



Emmanuel Turner

Band 9-12



Jessica Olivia Turner

HERO 12



Kayla Raquel Turner

Color Guard 9; Dance Team 9,11,12; Peer Helper 12; Prom Committee 12; Revue 11; STAND 10; Student Government 12



Lee Twiddy



Brandon Urquidi



Sarah Ashley Vaughn

Basketball 9; Basketball Captain 9; Soccer 9-12; Soccer Captain 12; Spanish Club 12; STAND 12; Track 9-11



Xiomara Vega

Dance Team 11,12; Key Club 12; Peer Helper 12; Softball 9-11; STAND 9-12



Emily Vola

Revue 10



Kirsten Vesely



Nicole Marie Vowoll

Class Gov 9-12; NHS 11,12; Nspn 11; Peer Med 9-12; Quill and Scroll 12; Sball 9-12; Sball Captain 11; SADD 11; Stud Gov 9-12; T Aide 12; V Choir 9; YB Sports Editor 12



Channon Waezholz



Alyesa Wachler

Marine Biology 12; Soccer 9-12; Teacher Aide 10



Lauren Walls

Debate 9,10; SOSA 9; STAND 11,12; Teens for Christ 9,11,12



James Walton



Bossetta Ware

Business Professinals 9; Fall Play 10; Peer Mediator 9; Track 9,10



Susan Gabrielle Ware

Circus Teens 12; Danced Team 11,12; Drama Club 12; PNN 10-12; Revue 11, STAND 12; WMHS 10-12



Ashley Washburn

Golf 10-12; Golf Captain; McKinley Day 9-10; Peer Helper 10; Swimming 9-12; Swimming Captain 11; Leadership 10-12; Leadership Miles 10-12



Rochelle Waxton

Basketball 9; Revue 11,12; STAND 12; Student Government



Kamai Westbrooks

Cheerleading 9-12; Homecoming Princess - Basketball 11; PNN 12; Prom Queen 11; STAND 12; Varsity Choir 9



Crystal N. White

Choral Teens 12; Concert Choir 10; Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 11



Simona White



Donnie Whittemore Jr.

Band 9-12; Drumline 9-12; Marine Biology 10,11; Swimming 11,12; Swimming Captain 12; Weightlifting Competition 12; Winter Drum Line 10



Almon Williams

Basketball 9-12; FCA 9-10; Key Club 10-12; FCA 9-10; Tennis 9; Track 9,12



Tinitia Williams



Suzanne Wills



Kevin Wilson
Cross Country 9-12;
Track 9-12



Sarah Wolf
Band 9-12; FCCLA 10-
Student Government
11,12



Tabitha Lee Wood



Longya Woodard



Jonathan Woodward
Autoshop 11-12; CAD 11;
Football 9-12; Golf 9-12;
Golf Captain 11,12; Tri-
Athlete 11; Weightlifting
Competition 11; Wrestling
11-12



Arrelio Word



Andrew Wright
Autoshop 11



Shemeka Wright
Band 9-12; FCCLA 11,12;
Fr. Club 10-12;
French Club Officer 12;
National French Test 12;
SADD 10-12; Student
Government 12



Samuel Yaeko
Band 9-12; CAD 10-12



Brianna Yarnell
Cheerleading 9,10;
Cheerleading Captain 9
Homecoming Court -
Basketball 9,10,12; Track
9,10



Donald York Jr.
Soccer 12; Student
Advisory Committee 9-10;
Teams for Christ 10,11;
Track 10-12; Track
Captain 12



**Susanne Pucci
Younison**
11,12



Matthew Zdych



Morgan Zellers
Fr Club 11,12; Hsr State 11;
Key Club 9; Mar Bio 9; NHS
11,12; NHS Treas 12; Fr
Test 9-11; Npr 10,11; Q & S
11,12; Sc Oly 12; St Ad Com
9,10; B Ten Mngr 9,10,12; T
A 12; Ten 9-12; Capt 11,12;
Vb 12; YB Ed 12



Jacob Zarbo
Band 9-12; Brass Choir
10; Jazz Impressions 10;
Jazz Impact 11,12



George Zupanowski



Heather Zurok
C Trs 9,10; C Sec 11,12; C
Gov 9-12; Fr Club 11,12;
IHSAA Rep 12; MPAC 12;
NHS 11,12; P Med 9-12; P
Com 11; P Court 11; Q & S
12; S'ball 9-12; STAND 11;
SADD 11; St Gov 11,12; V
Chor 9; Vball 9; YB Orgs Ed
12

'Reigned'

James Addison

Robert Agne

Kordaro Tra' Suave Allen

Darron Anderson

James Anderson

CAD 10

Alfredo Arredondo

Baseball 9-12



Rosina Assibey-Mensah

Varsity Choir 9

Daniel Avery

Aktion Club 11,12



Leslie Bailey

Ed Barconas

Soccer 9,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Wrestling 9,11,12

Dorell Bass

J'Aaron Bentley

Marcus Berry

STAND 9; Teacher Aide 10; Track 9,10; **Jeffrey Boss**

Eric Billieck

Jeremy Billingsley

Armani Blakely

Football 11,12; Track 11,12; Track Captain 12



Christopher Branch

Drake Branda

Band 9; Choral Teens 11; Fall Play 9-10, NHS 11,12; Teacher Aide 12; Tennis 9-12; Tennis Captain 11,12; Vocal Teens 10-12

Armando Bravo

Emily Brooks

Nyssa Brown

Decathlon Team 12; Key Club 12

Tricia Brown

Eryn Elise Bryant

Chasity Burns

SOSA 12; Swimming 11,12; Track 12

Ashley Marie Carrasco

De'Shawn Raashad Chambers

Baseball 9; Basketball 9-11; Track 9

Cheng-Wai Chiang

Academic Super Bowl 10-12; Chess Club 9-12; Decathlon Team 10-12; NHS 11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 10-12; Spell Bowl Team 10



Wayne Cousins

William Crosby

Decathlon Team 11,12; Football 9-12; PNN 12; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; Science Olympiad 12; Track 9,10; Weightlifting Competition 9,10,12; Wrestling 10

Jennifer Cruz

Art Club 12

Mallory Cuevas

Art Club 9; Autoshop 12; Debate 10; Key Club 10-12; Spanish Club 10; STAND 9-11



Larry Tony Dawson

Brendan Dolanog

Erica Elmore

Rachel Escobedo

Torrance Ferguson

Football 11

LaRoi Farrell

Edward J. Flores

Football 10-12; Wrestling 9-12

Orlando Flores

Armando Garza

Ann Marie Gault

Morgan Gill

Choral Teens 10-12; Varsity Choir 9; Soccer 10; Swimming 9-12; Volleyball 11

Adrian Coker

Baseball 9-12; Football 9,10;

Krystal Golecki

Juan Gutierrez

Autoshop 12; Soccer 10-12; Track 11

Ashley Ann Hahnay

Phillip Hall

Nicole Hanbury

Dwight Harding

Autoshop 12; Bowling Team 12; CAD 12; Swimming 12; Teens for Christ 11



Seth Harwood

Track 12

Montrae Hatcher

Bernard Hawking

Sonya Henry

Benjamin Hernandez

Track 11,12

Gregory Heron

Jeremy Higgins

Nick Hirjak

Building Trades 11,12; Marine Biology 10,11

Jazmin Holman

Sarita Hunter

Color Guard 11; Fall Play 12; Revue

11,12; Choral Teens 12

Stacy Shanie Hunter

Roneisha Annette Irons

HERO 12; Key Club 9; Newspaper 11; Track 9-11

Desmond James

Jermaine Jones

Brandon Jordan

Nika Jordan

Andrew Kaiser

Chess Club 11,12; Decathlon Team 12; German Club 11,12; Teacher Aide 12

out seniors

Talyssa Lampkin

Randall Lafor

Football 9-12; Track 10,11; Weightlifting

Competition 10-12; Wrestling 12

Brittany Lee

Band 9; Color Guard 9; Career Center
11

Justin Lewis

Jericho Marrero

Mykal Martinez

Anton Mathis

Christian Mathys

Tennis 12



Chad Nos

Cross Country 10,11; Drama Club 12;
Fall Play 12; Kids on the Block 12;

Spanish Club 9; Track 10-12

Azieb Parker

Evan Parker

Baseball 9-11; Basketball 9; Football 9-12;
Football Captain 12



Torrell Parrish

Henry Patterson

Maria Patterson

Damina Rasha Perry

FCCLA 12; Key Club 12; STAND 12;
SADD 12

Karl Person

Football 11

Jesse Ponce



Timothy Matson

Emerson May

Jade Nicole McCaslin

Marine Biology 9

Michael A. McMillon Jr.

Color Guard 12; Concert Choir 9,10;

Spell Bowl 12

Sharon Moredeo

Varsity Choir 9; Velveteens 10; Concert
Choir 11; Track 9,12

Joshua Motz

Art Club 9-12; CAD 12; Chess Club 12;
Decathlon 12; Planetarium 9,10; SOSA

9,10; Teacher Aide 12; Wrestling 9

Evann Meux

Devin Miles

Band 9,10; HERO 12; Jazz Impressions
9

Heather Mills

Markietta Moore

Robert Moore

Track 12

Edwin Moreno

Julian Mosley

Jose Nieto

Reginald Norvell

Baseball 9-12

Mario Pruitt

Katherine Quiek

SOSA 9,10; Drama Club 9-11; Fall Play

9-11; Spring Play 9-11

David Richmond

Basketball 9; Key Club 11; Track 9-11

Sarah Rivera

Wrestling Manager 10; Teacher Aide 12

Koonnee Robinson

FCCLA 12; Key Club 11; Kids on the
Block 12; STAND 11; Super Bowl 12

JoJo Rodgers

Emily Rodriguez

Arthur Rosales

Mauli Rosales

Sean Rose

Cross Country 10,11; Track 9-12; Track
Captain 12

James W. Rowe III

Basketball 9-12; Basketball Captain 12;

Concert Choir 10; Choral Teens 11,12;

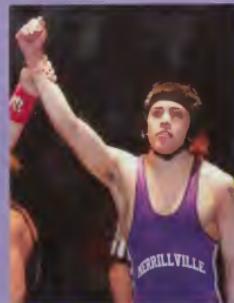
Revue 12; Show Choir 11,12; Track 10;



vocal Teen 11,12

Jessi Saenz

Adam Sakovich



Javier Salas

Wrestling 11, 12

Rachel Samis

George Sanchez

Kenneth Sangster

CAD 10-12

Jonathan Scott

Michael Scott

Band 9; Football 9

Joshua Sellers

James Simanson

Felicia Stewart

Haley Stoica

Gymnastics 9

Bioela Sulaiman

Cassia Taylor

Raymond Tinoco

Cross Country 10-12; SADD 10; Track
9-12

Alyesa Torres

Daniel Torres

Marvin Torres

Magdalena Valdez

Dale Edward Van Vleet

Band 9-12; Chess Club 10; Cross
Country 9,10,12; Jazz Impressions 9-11;
Track 9-12

Eric Vazquez

Gligor Vranikoski

Kyle Wengel

Football 9; Wrestling 9

Brittany Wesley

Nathan Westphal

Building Trades 11

JaMawn Wheeler

Tiffany Lynette White

Rayshad Wilkerson

Gary Willey

Basketball 9; Choral Teens 10; Fall Play
10,12; Show Choir 10-12; Vocal Teens
11,12

Dominique Williams

Joseph Williams

Jamil T. Yasin

CAD 11

Kevin Zelisko

Autoshop 11; Chess Club 12

Seniors 1995



Offering his advice to the Senior Class, Senior Charles Cole speaks about the importance of being involved in the church. Cole said, "I wanted to be a part of such a rare occasion because we don't have enough opportunities to talk about God in school."



Speaking to his fellow classmates, Senior Daniel Nieman II urges them to turn to God for inspiration in life. During his speech, he said, "The Lord has inspired me to strive for the best and do the best I can." He said he hopes to become a minister and dedicate his life to God.



As he looks out into the audience, Senior James Rowe speaks about how his faith helped him succeed in school. Rowe was one of three student speakers at Baccalaureate.



As she speaks about life's priorities, Keynote Speaker Mrs. Nancy Draper performs a demonstration with Seniors Niki Kraska and Megan Lee. This demonstration involved coffee mugs and offered a message that one should always have time to enjoy a cup of coffee.



Keeping her message short and unusual, Mrs. Nancy Draper gives advice to the Senior Class through a speech and two demonstrations. Regarding Baccalaureate, Mrs. Draper said, "It's a great time for a reflection of things that are really important to you in life."

SENIORS rejoice

Words and music hung in the air and echoed through the halls of Our Lady of Consolation Church. Many seniors and their families were in attendance at this year's Baccalaureate, a non-denominational service that anyone can attend. Speakers at Baccalaureate were Seniors Daniel Nieman II, James Rowe, Charles Cole and Keynote Speaker Mrs. Nancy Draper.

"It was very touching and inspiring to speak at the Baccalaureate. I felt honored to be a part of it," said Mrs. Draper.

Providing the music for the ceremony were the high school orchestra and choir.

"I thought the service was awesome, and the music performances were incredible. The whole service was a good reflection of what graduation is all about," said Mrs. Draper.

"My favorite part of the service was getting up and singing with the choir for the last time," said Rowe.

For some, speaking to the audience was an ordeal in and of itself.

"It was nerve-racking when I started to speak, but I ended up getting into it, and I felt like I shared something with the Class of 2006," said Rowe.

Each person took his or her own unique approach in the themes of their speeches, likewise using different amounts of time preparing for the event. Mrs. Draper actually received the story she used in her speech in an e-mail from her daughter. The story was about filling a jar with various objects until the jar was finally full. Her speech sent a message about setting priorities and not forgetting the small things in life.

Senior Niki Kraska said, "I thought the service was very uplifting. All the speeches presented were very moving and meaningful."



In a tribute to their friends, Seniors Breana Hendrix, Kimberly Barnes, Sarita Hunter and Jernal Miller sing to the audience. Their song stressed the importance of friendship in life.



Dressed in her graduation gown, Senior Jessica Parker plays the cello. Members of the orchestra performed throughout Baccalaureate.



Singing Josh Groban's and Charlotte Church's rendition of "The Prayer," Seniors Donald Toth and Courtney Miller perform at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Their duet preceded the choir's performance that day.



Valedictorian
Katherine Kaplan



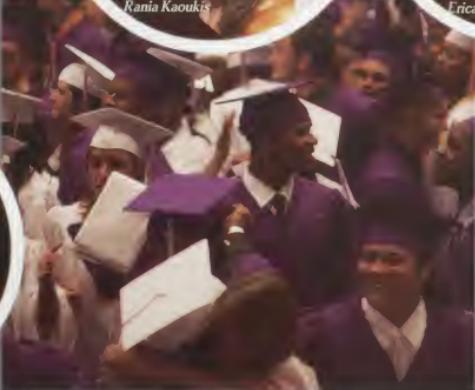
Valedictorian
Rania Kaoukis



Valedictorian
Erica Aloia



Valedictorian
Niki Kraska



As the colors purple and white flood the Star Plaza Theatre, the graduates say their final good-byes to the friends they will miss the most.



Valedictorian
Megan Clegg

Chosen by the Senior Class to be Keynote Speaker, Mr. James Stamper shows his emotions while speaking about how the Senior Class has impacted him and taught him how to live.



Valedictorian
Aimee Ogle



Valedictorian
Stephanie Pavlish



Valedictorian
Samantha Ratley



The SENIORS' reign has come to an END

Beginning to embark upon the "real world," the graduates celebrate with the balloon drop, signifying the end of Commencement.

"Life is like a box of... crayons." This concept, explained in Salutatorian Callie Lucas's graduation speech, was a continuous theme throughout Commencement, held at the Radisson Star Plaza Theatre June 7, 2006. The Class of 2006 had ten valedictorians and one salutatorian. Each valedictorian spoke about the different stages of life that graduates have gone through and compared these stages to a box of crayons.

In her speech about friendship, Valedictorian Niki Kraska said, "But don't think of it as goodbye. Instead think of it as 'see ya later,' knowing that our friends will always be there, leaving a color on your picture, leaving a handprint on your heart."

The night ended with the graduates walking across the stage to receive their diplomas, followed by the symbolic gesture of the turning of the tassels. At the end of Commencement, many graduates celebrated their accomplishments, cried about leaving and looked on to the future with excitement.

Valedictorian Stephanie Pavlish said, "Still remember to look on toward the future because this isn't the end. This isn't the even the beginning of the end, but yet perhaps the end of the beginning."



Graduating Seniors Gilberto Fuentes, Alysse Fultz and Tamara Gaddy cheer on their fellow graduates and prepare to turn their tassels to show the completion of high school.



Valedictorian
Morgan Zellers



Valedictorian
Heather Zurek



Salutatorian
Callie Lucas

Cruising through the line, Seniors Tara Schreiber and Morgan Gill ride in the back of a convertible. The Senior Drive-Around was a display of cars and even motorcycles with the Senior Class singing and dancing along to their radios.



Year after year, the Senior Class anticipates graduation, summer vacation and starting college, but before the school year wraps up, the students are able to gather for one of their last times together at the Senior Breakfast and Drive-Around. The Class of '06 pulled out their best ensembles and drove in their best rides to make this MHS tradition a memorable one.

One of the main speakers during the breakfast, Senior Melody Gomez, thought that the experience was enjoyable as a whole. Gomez thought the best part of the morning was the announcement of the winners for the Senior Choice Awards.

"It was really cool to see who won what," said Gomez.

Senior Raymond Duttweiler, however, thought the best part of the experience was being able to leave school.

"A lot of gas was wasted. The school owes Justin Floyd two dollars for gas money," said Duttweiler.

Whether they enjoyed leaving school early or being able to spend time with their friends, students from the Senior Class of 2006 seemed to agree that the Senior Breakfast and Drive-Around was an event that they will never forget.



Showing off their Mustang GT, Seniors Rafael Gerodimos, George Sanchez, Mario Montemayor and Adrian Sanchez cruise through the Senior Drive-Around.

Let the
SENIORS
shine



Snapping pictures and coasting down the line, this group of senior girls enjoys the Drive-Around as one last chance to see the Senior Class all together.

Grabbing a bite to eat, Senior Tara Florida scopes out the menu for the Senior Breakfast. Students were welcomed to enjoy an array of breakfast foods from the cafeteria one last time before graduating.

As the Senior Class gathers around the television, the senior video plays on the screen. The video displayed a collection of moments to remember from freshman to senior year. The seniors laughed and cried together reliving every moment.

While accepting her award for Most Spirited, Senior Renee Schmellmeyer gives Senior Melody Gomez a smile. The seniors voted on different categories for the Senior Choice Awards toward the end of the year. The categories ranged from Best Eyes to Most Likely to Live the OC Life.

Flipping through the Senior Magazine, Senior Tabatha Wood reads through the memories remembered and left behind but never forgotten. The Senior Magazine displayed the Senior Choice Awards, letters from teachers and senior wills.

Taking it all in, Seniors Dejan Kitrevski and Edwin Moreno talk amongst themselves about the Senior Magazine. The Senior Magazine allowed a chance for the students to reminisce on the "good times."

Jumping for the rebound, Senior Rayshon Richardson, faculty team member Mr. Michael Megyesi and Senior Bryan Ruder all reach for the ball. The seniors and faculty were neck and neck throughout the entire game, but in the end, the seniors took it all.



After winning the Senior/Faculty Basketball Game, Senior Chad Dawson hugs his friend, Senior Deji Macarthy. "The game was fun. It was a lot of competition, and the teachers did a good job with defense and scoring points. That's why the entire game was neck-and-neck," said Dawson.



As she yells at the top of her lungs, Senior Porsche Bradley cheers on her senior classmates playing in the game. "The game was so much fun. It was fun as an underclassman watching, but being a senior and watching it was so much more fun because I'm a senior finally," said Bradley.



Falling to the floor, Senior Justin Burke tries to catch the ball before faculty team member Mr. Jared Pierson. "There was competition the whole game. Everyone was on the ball and the score was close the whole game. It was cool," said Burke.



As he plays defense, Senior Lewis Miller watches carefully as faculty team member Mr. Anthony Hofer brings in the ball. "The game was great, and the seniors really put in some stiff competition," said Mr. Hofer.

Before the game, Senior Brittany Jones holds a sign she made for her best friend, Senior Donald Toth. Toth played in the game against the faculty, and Jones supported him all the way. "Donnie is such a good friend, and he has high school spirit. It's fun watching him play," said Jones.



After Senior Paige Patterson is announced as "Merrillville Idol," she sings to the entire crowd of faculty and students during halftime of the Senior/Faculty Basketball Game. "I was surprised I won," said Patterson. "I was nervous in the beginning, but after singing the National Anthem, I was not nervous anymore."



Faculty VS.

"Seniors rule!" seemed to be the resounding chant after the seniors' victory in the school's annual Senior/Faculty Basketball Game. After the buzzer rang following a one-minute overtime, the seniors were on top with a score of 24-22. This was the seniors' second win in a row, and this year's game proved to be physical with both teams recording the most fouls ever in the game's history.

"The game was very physical. There were fouls and hacking going on everywhere on the court," said Senior Colin McDonald, a participant in the game.

Another participant, Senior Roger Pesnaux, said, "It was like a boxing match on the court."

"I was more tired than I would have liked to be, and I was upset because I missed a few lay-ups that I should have made even though I was being fouled," said Mr. Jared Pierson, a player for the faculty team.

The game may have been physical, but nothing stopped the athletes and fans from having a good time.

"I always like the intensity the kids in the crowd bring to the game. I love high energy games," said Mr. Pierson.

With both teams battling back and forth, the game ended in a tie and had to move to overtime. After overtime, the seniors pulled off the win.

"The game had a lot of ups and downs, but I was always confident that the seniors would pull it off," said Senior Michael Padgett.

Pesnaux said, "My favorite part was the end when everyone ran out onto the court."

Although many athletes played during most of the game, some only received minimum playing time.

"I dribbled for three steps, and I had a good pass," said Senior Brian Reese, who played for less than a minute of the game.

The coaches for the seniors were Brittney Moore and Darryl Evans, and the coach for the faculty team was Mr. Dave DeMuth.

Senior Justin Floyd, a fan, said with a laugh, "The only thing that could make the game better would be me coaching because I am the second coming of Bobby Knight."

SENIORS

Most Likely to Stay Friends

Alyssa Fueltz

Kristin Brindley

Most Likely to Stay Friends

Richard Haubor

Andrew James

Most Intelligent

Charlotte Cope

Ranina Kaukiing

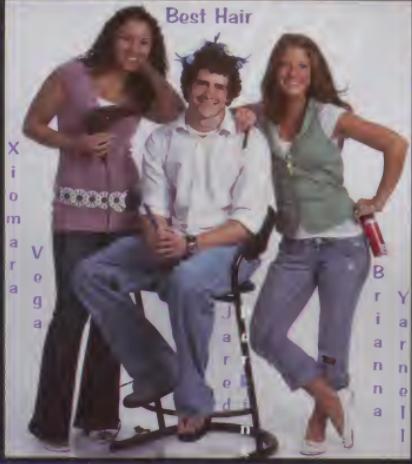
SENIOR**Best Smile**

Jeremy Billingsley



Kagila

Turner

Most Likely to be Involved

Xiomara Voga

Jared Dunn

Brianna Mall

Senior Choice Awards 2005

Choice Awards

Most Spirited

Justin Bellkoo
Jennifer Schmiedmeyer

Best Personality

Veigomari
Armani Blakey

Most Athletic

Dexter Laramore
Stephanie Pavlish

Most Likely to Become Famous

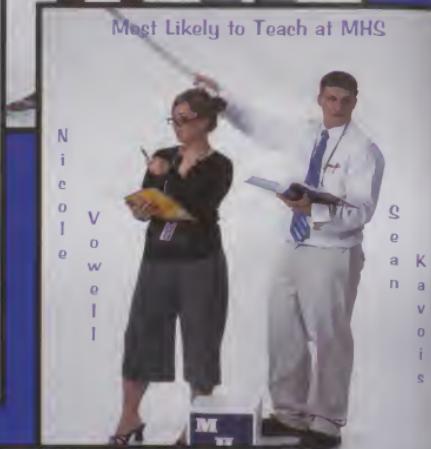
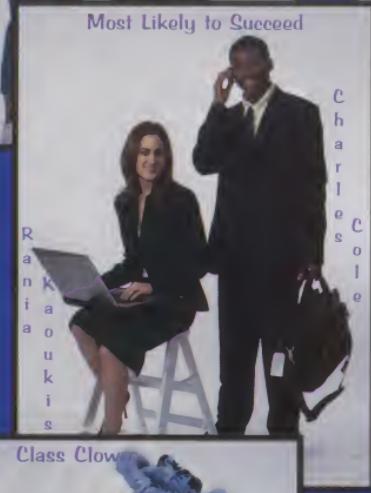
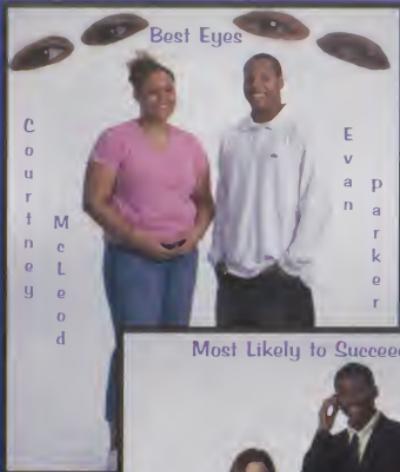
Justin Burke
Rochelellie

Best Car

Heather Zurek
Deja McEarth

Cutest Couple

Vance Giddley
Jessie Francis



Best Dressed

Most Likely to Live the OC Life



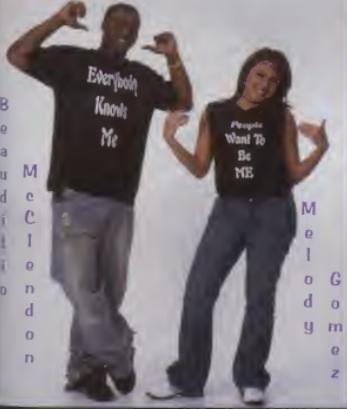
Best Dancer



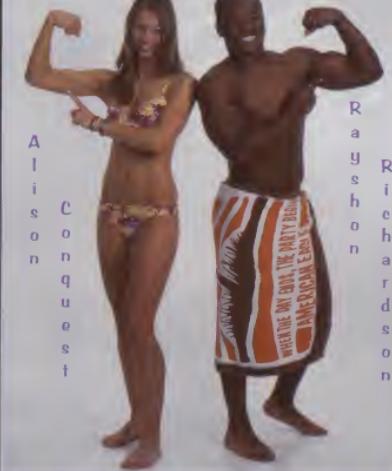
Most Musical



Most Popular



Best Body



Choice Awards

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MHS class of
66

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Class of '06*



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**GOOD LUCK
CLASS
OF 2006!**



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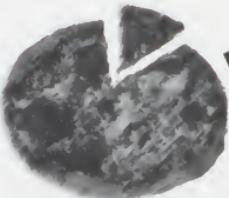


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Love,
Dad, Mom & Aimee

Mike,
I know you will fly straight
and high for all of your life.
Love,
Mom

Ashley Marie Traina

Ashley,

We are very proud of you and what you have accomplished.

We wish you much joy and happiness in your future.

Good Luck! We love you!

Mom, Dad, Frank & Joey



Rachael Rudolph

Rachael,
You make us proud.
Aim High! Dream Big!
Reach for the Stars!
Best of luck
at Ball State.

Love,
Dad, Mom
& Nicole



Ashley,
May all your hopes
and dreams come true!
Love,
Your proud parents



Ashley
Kistinger



Niki

Kraska



We knew
you would do it!
Now go change
the world.
Make a difference.
(But don't forget
to dance!)
You'll always be
our angel.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Dana



**Rania
Kaoukis**

Ranoula mas,
Because...
No dreamer
is ever too small;
no dream
is ever too big...
See your dream.
Set your goal.
Achieve it.
You are our dream!
Love,
Baba, Mama
& Nikola



**Morgan
Zellers**

Morgan,
You make the
world a better
place just
by being in it.
Love,
Mom, Dad
& Steph



Manuel "Eddie" Riveron, Jr.

Parent Pride! Opa! Eddie, you are so loved!!!
This is just one of many beginnings to come.
You are brimming with potential.
Choose your goals wisely.
Stay honest, hard-working and respectable.
Always believe in yourself.
Now get ready, get set, and GO.
Live life to the fullest!
Sagapo, Mom, Dad y La Familia



From grade school to graduation

Congratulations! You did it, mijo. We are proud of you for everything you are and everything you will become. Always love and believe in yourself and the possibilities are endless. We are always here for you.

Con mucho amor,
Tus Padres



Pedro A. Torres



Dear Joanna,
You've made us
so proud
with your high
school
accomplishments.
Keep on following
your dreams, and
many good things
will happen,
Sunshine.
Love you,
Mom, Dad & Alex

Joanna Salinas



Paige Patterson

May God bless you,
keep you
and order your steps
as you enter
a new and exciting
season of your life.
I am so proud of you.
Love,
Mom



Angelica J. Nunn

Angelica Jeanelle Nunn.
Truly our "Angel."
Hold on to your dreams
daughter.
Much love,
Your Family

From grade school to graduation...

Ashley,
 Congratulations. You have made us so proud.
 May all your dreams come true.
 Wishing you lots of happiness.
 Love,
 Mom & Dad



*Ashley
 Thomas*



*Nicole
 Vowell*

Nicole,
 We have been blessed to have
 such a wonderful daughter
 and granddaughter.
 You have been
 a constant joy to us.
 We are so proud of you.
 Love and happiness,
 Mom, Dad, Grandma & Papa





I could remember when you were a baby and so innocent. Always smiling, telling jokes.

We shared our moments of tears.
You're all grown up now and leaving me,
but you will always be my baby boy.

Love ya,
Mom



Coria

William

Austin Burke

Austin,
Congratulations!
We're so proud of you!
May all your dreams
come true.

Love,
Mom, Dad & Addison



Carlton Hedrick

Hoyles

It seems like only
yesterday...
Where did the time go?
Carlton, we are so very
proud of you!
Love,
Dad, Mom and Kristen Joi



From grade school to graduation...

Katie,
You have made us so proud for the past 18 years!
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Keep up your hard work and determination
as you embark on your next step of life.

We love you so much!
Love, Mom & Dad



**Katie
Kaplar**



Lucas Philips

Luke,
You are a shining star
full of curiosity, hope
and faith.
Go illuminate
the world!
Love,
Mom



Genesis Marie Randolph

Congratulations, Baby!
Reach for the stars.
Love,
Mom, Lelitia,
Nadia & Grandparents



Sayo Kathryn Sameshima

Best wishes for a successful future.
Love,
Your family
Omedetou Gozaimasu & Gambatte Kudasai!

From grade school to graduation...

Lindsey,
Thanks for all the joy and wonderful memories you have
given us for 18 years. We love you 'sooo' much!
May your future hold all that you wish for.
Love,
Dad, Mom, Kristy & Stacey



Lindsey Trock

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Stephanie,

You are a special person. You possess special talents that could make a difference in the people around you. Always believe in yourself and don't be afraid to lead.

Our love is always with you in whatever or wherever life takes you.

Love, Mom & Dad

Stephanie



Pavlish



Cambria,
Congratulations.
I am 'sooo' very proud
of you and your
accomplishments!
You're such an
awesome gift
from God!
Keep living life fully
and creating
possibilities
for a bright future!

I love you,
Mom

Cambira
Hollingsworth



From grade school to graduation...

We're so proud of you Erica!
May all your dreams come true.
Best wishes for a successful future!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Matt & Christine



**Erica
Aloia**





To our beautiful baby girl. We are so proud of all you have accomplished. May your future be as bright as our past has been watching you grow into a beautiful young lady.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Lauren



Huish



Scott,
We are so proud
of the person
that you are and
will continue to be.
The future holds
all good things for you.
Thanks for being you.
Congratulations!
Love,
Dad, Mom, Brendan,
Colin & Champ

*Scott
Schafer*



From grade school to graduation...

Melissa,
We take great pride in everything you have accomplished.
You are a remarkable person. Continue to strive to achieve
your dreams. Set the bar high. We are very proud of you.

Much love,
Mom, Dad and Matt



*Melissa
Lynn
Hubbell*





Heather Nicole Zurek

Congratulations, Heather,
on everything that you have done.

You have worked so hard
to be where you are today.
We are very proud of you.

Believe in yourself
as we believe in you
and may ALL your dreams come true.
We love you very much!

Love always,
Mom, Dad & Ryan





Lindsey,

Hard work, self-discipline and your eye on your goals have got you to this point. Now the world awaits. Use your head, but listen to your heart and happiness will be yours. We are so very proud of you.

Love,
Mom & Dad

Lindsey



Alvarez



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Love,
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Brown

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May all your dreams come true,
and best wishes for a successful future.

Love,
Mom



Daniel
Nieman II





Samanthah Kaiser

Congratulations Samanthah!

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Best of luck in all your future endeavors.

We are all so very proud of you.

Love ya always,

Mom, Dad, Zakkary, Matthew, Tyler Mae, Hunter
Nichole, Ma-Ma & Pa-Pa



From grade school to graduation...

Good luck in your future. You're the best daughter.

Love,
Your Family



*Melody
Gomez*

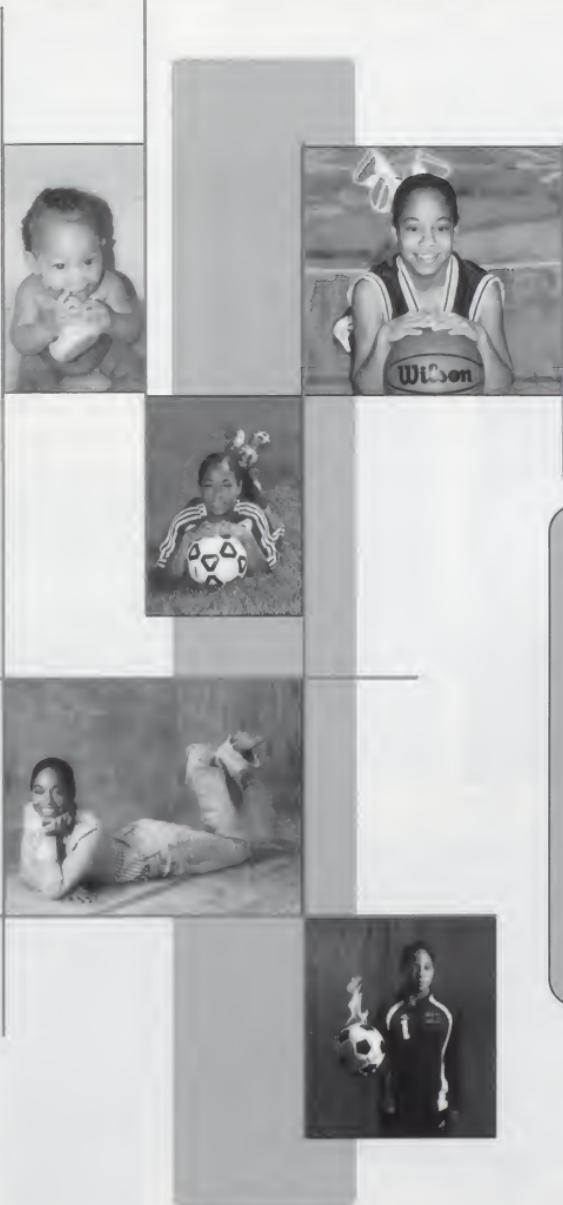


Callie Anne Lucas



Happy Birthday, Callie.
Enjoy life like you always have!
We love you.
- Mom & Dad





Erica **Richmond**

If you can imagine it,
you can achieve it.
If you can dream it,
you can become it.

We are so proud
of you, Erica.

Love,

Mom & Dad



**Zack
Sperling**

Congratulations on
your high school
graduation, Zack.
May all your dreams
come true.

Love,
Mom & Dad



Christina Kratimenos

Christina,
Good luck in all you do!
We love you very
much.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Toso,
Demetri, Koste & Yiayia



**Trine
Eskesen**

Best of luck
to our foreign
exchange
student.
You have taught
us so much.



From grade school to graduation...

Congratulations Kristin! We are so proud of you!
We wish you continued happiness
and the best of luck in all your future endeavors.
We love you.
Mom, Dad, Alyssa & Nicole



**Kristin
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Colophon

Merrillville High School, a member of Quill & Scroll and the Indiana High School Press Association, produces Volume 81 of the Merrillvue. Guided by Mrs. Teresa Procter and led by Editor Morgan Zellers, the fourth-hour yearbook class developed this book with the theme of "Purple Reign."

Through March 30, the yearbook was only available for purchase via Internet or phone. From April 1 to 15, the students could purchase the book at school. The cost of the book was set at \$45.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke is the sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company.

To create the book, the staff used Adobe Pagemaker, Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop. The fonts in this book include Jasper and Abyss on the cover and the title page; Dean for the body text, captions and folios; several different fonts in Lifestyles; BigFiction in Academics; JamesBold in Organizations and Events; OneChild in Performing Arts; ImportBold and Helvetica in Sports and Braddon in Seniors.

While underclassmen and faculty portraits were taken by Lifetouch Prestige Portraits, Mr. John Bir from John Giolas Photographers and his staff took senior portraits along with pictures for sections including Clubs and Activities, Sports and Performing Arts.

The 2006 yearbook staff would like to thank, above all, Mrs. Procter for her help, guidance and patience. The staff would also like to thank Mrs. Tanke for her help throughout the process. The staff also appreciates the assistance and contributions from the Athletic Department, the secretaries of the Main Office and the Guidance Department. Appreciation is also due to Mr. Mark Ciesielski and the PNN staff for their help in advertising this year's book. The staff thanks any other person or group that has helped in the development of this book.



Front Row: Melody Gomez, Cambria Hollingsworth; Second Row: Stephanie Pavlish, Lauren Huish, Melissa Hubbell, Lindsey Alvarez; Third Row: Abigail Deidigha, Rania Kaoukis, Morgan Zellers, Callie Lucas; Fourth Row: Beverly Munchenburg, Ashley Traina, Joanna Salinas, Nicole Vowell, Heather Zurek; Fifth Row: Trine Eskesen, Lindsey Trock; Back Row: Daniel Nieman II, Jared Perkins

Closing

First and foremost, I would like to thank Mrs. Procter for everything she has done for this book and for the staff. Her patience and knowledge have been key in producing this book. I speak for the staff and myself as I thank her for her endless efforts on a daily basis to keep us on task and help us in creating this original yearbook.

I would also like to thank the entire staff. This book was not just a creation of a few people, but instead a combination of the thoughts and ideas of the entire staff. We had our rough days as well as our easy ones. We pushed through tough deadlines, computer crashes and so many other obstacles. After setting foot through the doors of MIOB, we realized that this yearbook would be harder to produce than we thought. However, no matter what the circumstances, we pulled through as a team. We worked together to help one another to create this book that I could not be any more proud of.

I also appreciate the work done by Senior Katherine Kaplar. As a teacher's aide, she came in and completed the book's entire index, a job that would not exactly be called "fun." Although she was not even in the fourth-hour class, I consider her a member of the staff. I would like to acknowledge a foreign exchange student, Senior Trine Eskesen, for all that she has done for this book. She came to this country just before the school year started and instantly picked up on writing stories and designing pages. She caught on quickly and became a crucial member of the staff.

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With much appreciation,
Morgan Zellers
2006 Editor

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